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Latin America

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Daily Report
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FBIS-LAT-94-149 *3 August 1994*

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Cuba

Vice Foreign Minister Rejects Haiti Invasion Plan

FL0308013694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Gisela Veleredia for the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Fernando Remirez de Estenoz, first vice minister of foreign affairs, held a news conference at the International Press Center in this capital to review the Haitian situation. An invasion of Haiti will not solve the crisis or conflict that prevails in that friendly Latin American and Caribbean nation, he said when reasserting Cuba's position against a military invasion in that country—as agreed upon by the UN Security Council.

[Begin Remirez de Estenoz recording] In fact, we believe an invasion would not help solve the Haitian problem. Quite the contrary, it would create a situation that would actually represent a threat to regional peace and stability. [end recording]

Cuba believes, like any other country, that the presence of other powers' warships near its waters always represents a threat, and, if that world power has no diplomatic relations with our country and if it maintains a blockade against us, the possibilities of a threat increase, Remirez de Estenoz said.

[Begin Remirez de Estenoz recording] However, we are not talking only about Cuba. We think this also applies to Latin America and the Caribbean. Moreover, we are talking about a possible invasion, the main forces for which would come from the United States, as stated by the U.S. Government. We must bear in mind the history of Latin America and the Caribbean so far as U.S. interventions are concerned.

In other words, this does not involve only Cuba's concerns—because we do have them, and we believe they are quite valid and legitimate—but also the interests and concerns of all the nations of the continent and the area. The possibility of an intervention represents a threat precisely for these nations, meaning those that comprise Latin America and the Caribbean. [end recording]

The Cuban diplomat also referred to the use of the naval base at Guantanamo.

[Begin Remirez de Estenoz recording] The naval base, as you well know—there is no need to comment on this—has no legitimacy whatsoever so far as we are concerned. Quite the contrary. It is there against our people's will; and Cuba condemns, and does not accept, the use of this military base to carry out actions that jeopardize the interests of Latin American and Caribbean people. [end recording]

Further on Vice Foreign Minister Comments

PA0308011894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2330 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 2 Aug (PL)—Cuba stated today a U.S.-led invasion of Haiti would pose a threat to peace and security throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fernando Remirez de Estenoz, Cuban vice foreign minister and permanent representative to the United Nations, also said the presence of warships of a nation that maintains a blockade against it is, for Cuba, a potential threat.

During a news conference here, Remirez reiterated the official disapproval of the logistical use of the naval base the United States has in Guantanamo, on the eastern tip of Cuba, as part of the move to invade Haiti, and he recalled Havana opposes this military enclave in the country.

He emphasized the irregular attitude taken by the UN Security Council as it authorized the use of force in an internal conflict, such as the Haitian case, thereby interfering in the internal affairs of that country.

Regarding the diplomatic and political means that can still be used to resolve the existing crisis, Remirez said the only obstacle is the position of certain U.S. power sectors that send signals to the Haitian military that are quite different from those publicly assumed by the U.S. Administration.

On the consequences of a military action in Haiti, the Cuban vice foreign minister recalled the historic lessons learned from established precedents, such as the previous U.S. invasion (1915-1934), after which U.S. Marines occupied that small Caribbean nation for 19 years.

Asked about the possibility of signing a new immigration agreement between Cuba and the United States, Remirez said Cubans are willing. Remirez added the Cuban Government has made its policy on this matter very flexible, without getting a response from the United States.

To attain normalization in this matter, the United States must facilitate an adequate migratory flow and stop encouraging the departure of illegals from Cuba and giving them a warm welcome once they achieve their goal, Remirez said.

Radio Cites U.S., Dominican Republic Border Patrol Accord

FL0308021394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Tension continues to grow in Haiti. In the last few hours, an accord has been signed between the United States and the Dominican Republic.

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The Governments of the United States and the Dominican Republic have agreed that a group of international observers patrol the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, an application of the UN embargo against Haiti's military regime. The text of the accord was signed by Juan Aristides Taveras Guzman, foreign relations minister of the Dominican Republic, and by U.S. Ambassador (Donna Rainer). The protocol's first article establishes that the multinational group of observers will be posted along the Dominican Republic's border with Haiti to control implementation of the UN Security Council's commercial embargo against Haiti.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Well, the Government of the Dominican Republic states that it will not take part in the proposed invasion of Haiti. However, the government also states that it will respect this accord that was recently implemented. [end recording]

The most important news item in the Dominican Republic, however, is the proclamation, just a few minutes ago, of presidential candidate Joaquin Balaguer as official winner of the general election of 16 May. According to the information provided this afternoon by the central elections committee, President Balaguer obtained 1,275,460 votes and his rival Jose Francisco Pena Gomez obtained 1,253,169 votes. The difference between Balaguer and Pena Gomez was 22,291 votes, according to this last bulletin.

U.S. Envoy to UN: Haiti Invasion Not 'Only Option'

FL0308005394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Belkis Joglar from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] United States troops, approximately 7,000, continue to prepare themselves near the coasts of Haiti. Meanwhile, the United States' ambassador to the UN assures that the use of force is not the only option for restoring democracy to Haiti.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The UN Security Council agreed last Sunday to authorize any measure necessary to enforce the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in 1991. The initiative was presented by President Bill Clinton's government and provides for military intervention by a multinational force under the supervision of an international group of observers and UN troops.

Jonassaint declared a state of siege in Haiti and advised that he would fight a battle with all available resources. Jonassaint went on to point out that the UN accord was intolerable, as he does not believe that Haiti presents a danger to world peace and security. [end recording]

Colombian Defense Minister Meets With Castro, Departs

PA0208230694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1829 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 1 Aug (PL)—Cuban President Fidel Castro met with Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda, who stayed on the island three days and returned to his country today.

After receiving honors befitting his rank at a ceremony held at the Mausoleum of El Cacahual, Pardo was accompanied by Raul Castro Ruz, Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) minister, to the Jose Marti Airport, from where he returned to his country.

Minutes before departing, Pardo told reporters his visit to Cuba, which was aimed at strengthening friendship and gathering information, had been very pleasant. He added his meeting with Fidel Castro the night of 31 July had constituted an important gesture in Cuban-Colombian relations, which were renewed to an ambassadorial level on 28 October 1993.

We talked about the Cuban president's visit to Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, to attend the establishment of the Association of Caribbean States (AEC) on 24 July and about his visit to the manor of San Alejandrino, Santa Marta, where liberator Simon Bolivar died, Pardo Rueda said.

The Colombian defense minister and Raul Castro placed flower arrangements this morning at the tomb of independent General Antonio Maceo and his aide, Captain Panchito Gomez Toro.

In statements to the press, Pardo Rueda said he was impressed with the professionalism and high standards of the FAR General Maximo Gomez Academy, where he received a medal commemorating the 150th anniversary of the independent's birth.

During his stay in Cuba, the Colombian minister, accompanied by Army General Raul Castro, visited military and science and technology institutions on the island, such as the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center.

The Colombian official also praised Cuba's achievements in the biotechnological sphere, the foremost qualifications of Cuban scientists, its success in marketing its products, and the prevention of several ailments.

Asked whether Colombia would participate in the Haitian intervention approved by the UN Security Council, Pardo said his country has not been called on by the international organization, and, therefore, he had no appraisal in this sense.

Other FAR chiefs and officers and Ricardo Santamaria, the Colombian ambassador to Cuba, also went to see off Pardo Rueda.

Prieto Visits Chile; Notes 'Democracy' in Cuba

PY0308020094 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 10

[Text] Abel Prieto, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo and of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], stated yesterday that the

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legalization of the dissident political groups in his country would mean the legalization of "imperial and annexationist activities."

Prieto, who is visiting Chile until 30 July to participate in ceremonies marking the commemoration of the attack on Moncada Garrison, stated that if the opposition party is legalized "we will be automatically legalizing the presence in Cuba of that great power that has atomic weapons, the control of public opinion, and pro-imperial and pro-annexationist political activities."

The Cuban ANPP member said that Cuba will tolerate the dissidents, but that it is not willing to legalize them.

He added that Cuba "has for years lived in democracy," using as basis the election of delegates and deputies to the ANPP, "a process in which the opponents of Fidel Castro's government can participate with no problems whatsoever."

He said that the single-party system in Cuba "is the fruit of a history, of a concrete process." He said that such a system should not be considered dogma, and that the Caribbean island is living through a profoundly democratic moment of great plurality and much discussion.

Prieto added that the government is open to foreign investment, and that one of the great difficulties it is facing is the lack of petroleum.

He said that one of the most outstanding aspects of the diversification of the economy is the development of the pharmaceutical industry, Cuban medicine, and biotechnology.

Prieto noted the Cuban expectation that the countries participating in the hemispherical summit in Miami will make a statement against the blockade against Cuba.

He added that the Miami summit represents "an annexationist message, a message of how we can continue to eat black beans and dance the salsa, and how to be assimilated by the American culture."

Article on Cuban Emigration to U.S.

PA3007195694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0823 GMT 27 Jul 94

["Exclusive" article by PRENSA LATINA contributor Joaquin G. Santana: "Cuban Diaspora?"]

[Text] Havana—To find a Cuban without emigrant relatives is a feat almost comparable to finding the famed needle in a haystack: For 35 years Cuban emigration has gone unabated, although the pace may vary in step with certain circumstances.

The first group of Cuban emigrants to leave the island within the past three decades left immediately after the popular triumph of 1959.

The impact of the revolution expelled them from within the borders of their country of origin in an stampede provoked by the fine survival instinct common in the traditionally privileged sectors.

This uncontrollable reaction of panic of what would happen in the country from 1959 to 1965 led to the exodus of more than 290,000 people, including the most qualified Cubans.

The Battle Begins

Once abroad, some of them became armed opponents of the Cuban sociopolitical program with a venom that can only be explained if one considers the abundant quota of privileges their families enjoyed in old Cuba.

The majority of the population, however, remained on the island in an attempt to achieve, above all, its economic, social, spiritual, and psychological reconstruction in search of an identity, which could have been lost forever.

Others who left settled down in U.S. cities and, helped by their disciplined dedication to business—as well as the countless opportunities granted by the laws on the adjustment of Cubans in the United States (1966)—were able to recover their privileges and fortunes in foreign lands.

According to the testimony of columnists in the Cuban exile community, however, many live immersed in nostalgia, and a very small minority has used this "nostalgia" to fall into the trap set by the United States to make them "pawns" in its political conflict with Cuba.

The Grandmother

My maternal grandmother left during the second largest wave of emigrants. She came from a family of immigrants who came from the Canary Islands and had always been poor.

She was about to turn 80, and no one dared guess that she could survive a harsh winter in latitudes farther north.

Despite this, however, my grandmother was able to survive two more decades. Historically speaking, she was among the 343,500 people who left Cuba between 1966 and 1973.

Lacking any ideological motivations, this modest uneducated peasant joined—for the purpose of immigration statistics—a diaspora often touted for its pro-U.S. leanings.

Nothing could be further from reality. The centenarian grandmother did not sympathize with the revolution, but she was not against it, either.

She was simply not prepared to assume the necessary historical awareness to show her the magnitude of the changes taking place around her.

Prisoner of her inability to see the magnitude of the change that was taking place, she let others decide for her

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an unexpected trip abroad. Hers was a fate as those portrayed in transhumant novels that no one will ever write again.

The Other Access Gate

According to a recent census, more than 1 million people who were born in Cuba are currently living in the United States.

All of them are not there for the same reason. Some went to the United States driven by a reasonable urge to reunite a family that was once divided by political reasons after deciding to ignore these differences.

Others reached the "promised land" through the visceral route of their rejection of an ideology that proclaims the equality of all people without distinction of race, gender, or national origin.

Almost all of them left, however, without gathering the necessary preliminary information about the country they were going to. This was the case of the 100,000 Cubans who left through the port of Mariel (1980), and who discovered, when they got off in Florida, that they had been thrown into a huge spiritual void in a place of which they had no previous knowledge.

Almost 15 years have passed, and most of them have not been able to adapt to their new surroundings. Many wander through the United States without any roots.

Apparently, only a small minority has found the gate of access to stability. How many will die without ever being able to find at least one answer to their decision to emigrate?

The Stopcock of Emigration

I know people who are still in Cuba at this time and want to go abroad for strictly personal reasons.

These people have not committed common crimes or participated in antigovernment movements. They want to live in the United States, but that country denies them visas.

U.S. authorities, meanwhile, have given their approval to more than 3,500 "boat people" [balseros] who arrived by sea in 1993, thereby setting a "record."

According to Cuban statistics, such illegal departures were 83 times higher than the figures for 1985. The information campaign under way abroad has been unprecedented in the current century.

Cuba, however, is not among the 10 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean with the highest number of citizens leaving for the United States every year. Mexico, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Colombia, Haiti, and Guiana are among the top 10.

However, there is one undeniable fact: The ideology imposed by anti-Cuban propaganda has worked the miracle that, among all of those who emigrate to the United States, only Cubans are considered "political refugees."

This situation seems complex, difficult, and even paradoxical because of the whimsical designs of the manipulative information campaign played by powerful media against Cuba.

The situation is even more incomprehensible for those Cubans who every morning come to see nonchalant U.S. officials at their Havana office only to learn to their dismay that their visa application has been turned down.

They are easy victims of the U.S. desire to tighten the emigration "stopcock" to the utmost in order to encourage illegal departures, which constitute high-profile material in their distortion of the Cuban situation.

According to reliable sources, less than 2,000 Cubans are being granted visas by the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to travel directly to the United States.

Commentary Stresses Importance of Antinarcotics Efforts

FL3107222694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 94

["Reflections": Commentary by Fernando Davalos; from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Drugs are a stranger to Cuba: There is no drug trafficking or drug abuse in Cuba. All we know about this ugly subject is what we read in the foreign press or what we learn when we stop a boat carrying marijuana or cocaine that, unfortunately, intrudes on our shores. We must remain alert, even though drugs are rare in Cuba.

Justice Minister Amat has warned that the tourist boom, the freely circulating dollar, and our trade diversification plans could leave us open to being implicated in this area in some way. I'd also like to point out that Cuba's geography will always be part of the problem, as Cuba lies directly on maritime routes through which drugs are constantly transported from South to North America.

Cuba has not caught the international drug trafficker's eye because drugs are not consumed in Cuba. However, that situation could change with the country opening its borders to tourists from all over the world. This could tempt some traffickers into tapping into a supposedly new market. Justice Minister Amat stressed that our authorities must be alert and well prepared in this regard.

I think that everyone, not just the authorities, should take heed. We must continue to watch for airplanes dropping packages into the sea or onto our shores and stop vessels that try to pick up those packages. However, our guard must now be more subtle not only because of the massive influence of tourists but also because there may be a case where someone—a Cuban citizen—is attracted enough by the white powder that he tries to

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extract some from the forbidden packages found on the country's territory or off its shores. Minister Amat suspected that some of it is already being extracted.

We cannot fool ourselves. There was a reported increase in domestic drug consumption in 1993, but it was very small and nothing compared to that of other countries. A total of 320 drug trafficking and possession cases were recorded last year, with 377 people found guilty. These cases represented just 1.1 percent of the crimes committed in Cuba last year. It may not seem like a lot, but the fact that it does exist makes it worth being on the lookout.

[Words indistinct] will be firm with these cases, but we cannot rest on our laurels. Cuba is proud that, unlike many other countries, its territory is practically free of drug addiction and drug trafficking. Nevertheless, this must not distract us from being on the lookout because this is a very serious problem and we must defend ourselves.

Commentator Predicts $1 Billion in Sugarcane Harvest Losses

FL0308000994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Commentary by Diosdado Maso from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] The sugarcane harvest is about to end. It has been long, tense, difficult, and agonizing and has, despite all efforts, failed to yield the sugar the country needs. The final figures have yet to be tallied, but the truth is that we can readily assert that the country has lost more than $1 billion between the last harvest and the one that will end in August.

What led to these deplorable results? There are many reasons for consecutive low yields in the sugarcane sector and, consequently, sugar production. Sugarcane farming practices—specifically, producing sugarcane seed, sowing sugarcane seed, and cultivating this gramineous plant—a noble plant as far as cultivation goes, but one that does require some attention—lie at the heart of the problem. The production of sugarcane seed, among other factors, is the main reason for the low yield. The country's sugarcane seed stock does not guarantee acceptable results, for some of the seed is diseased and expired—meaning the sowing date has exceeded six months. Old sugarcane seed cannot possibly yield good results. The yield, much less the volume of sugar, cannot possibly increase if we consider that this same low-quality seed is sowed with more buds than necessary for its germination, that we sow without completely sealing off areas, and that we weed the fields only every other day. The cause for this consecutive decrease in the sugarcane yield lies in the genesis of the whole process, namely the seed. We must work seriously and adopt the necessary measures with those who are responsible for this situation to solve the problem.

This has nothing to do with the special period. It is that simple.

Finance Minister Discusses Bill on Taxation System

FL0208214594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] The Constitutional and Judicial Affairs Commission and the Economic Affairs Commission, both of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], met at the Convention Center today to discuss the bill on the taxation system. Guidelines for implementing the taxation system in 1995 have already been drafted:

[Begin Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez recording] The taxation system will be used to collect and to regulate state activity. This measure will have little effect on the private sector: Prices affect everyone equally but taxes will not. [end recording]

The bill that the ANPP commissions reviewed defines 15 types of taxes [figuras tributarias] aimed at the business sector and the population. The bill describes the taxation system as flexible enough that changes can be made based on the country's economic situation and on the economic capacity of each sector of the population.

The meeting also pointed out that taxation policy is just one of a number of economic reorganization measures. Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez said that the project includes seven types of taxes with adjustable rates, including those on public services, electricity, and water. The project includes taxes on, among others: homes and boats, goods and inheritances, and document processing.

ANPP discussion of this bill on 3 August will complete the debate, which began on 2 May 1994:

[Begin ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon recording] The majority of the provinces—I cannot say all, because I only participated in five of them—had a general text. We did not cover each point of the text, but we did go over its content. We went over all the types of taxes that could be considered in the law. [end recording]

The ANPP faces the challenge of meeting the lower-income individual's interests when debating this complex bill:

[Begin Commission on Economic Affairs President Osvaldo Martinez recording] The law has provisions and resources that allow for a case by case study, always considering the principle of meeting the lower-income individual's interests. [end recording]

All the deputies, divided into three working groups, will continue to debate taxation policy. Parliament will discuss Granma Province's progress report, the Council of State decree-laws, and the bill on the taxation system beginning 3 August.

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[Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 2 August adds: "Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez pointed out that the Cuban state could collect more than 500 billion pesos annually through taxes without notably affecting the family budgets."]

Commentary Compares Past, Present Tax System Goals

FL0208171094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Commentary by Fernando Davalos from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] I've been considering the National Assembly of the People's Government's plans to discuss taxes on 3 August, for the mere mention of taxes takes me back to when the republic was decadent and full of deceipt and shamelessness.

Taxes were the people's contribution to generalized thievery back then. Taxes were paid to fill the nation's vaults. Although some public projects were carried out and several anemic programs were maintained, crooks were given the chance to enrich themselves with the money collected in taxes. Taxes was a bad word back then. Businessmen and industrialists could not avoid paying taxes, despite widespread efforts not to pay. They paid knowing that the government thieves would steal the money. However, small businessmen and workers—the majority—as well as the rich—who, more or less, managed to evade taxation—were victimized. Their contributions to the state fund were also embezzled. The disorderly budget system of the makeshift republic of thieves established in Cuba following U.S. military intervention generated corruption, theft, and poor budget management. The budget could not meet the people's demands for schools, hospitals, and other services.

Having lived through this experience, some people wonder why a tax system is being reimplemented during the Revolution. These people do not realize the abysmal difference between the budget we are committed to strengthening today and the comic-opera-sketch caricature of the olden days. The taxes and contributions being discussed now do not resemble nor have anything to do with the taxes and contributions in the past, which served to make political bosses wealthy. The crux of the matter lies in the fact that there is a great difference between the two situations.

Taxes are the social mechanism which help bring us together, with individuals helping to pay the bill for schools, hospitals, defense, and services. In light of today's budget and fiscal resources, there is no danger of crooks stealing much needed taxes like they did in the past.

National Assembly To Debate New Tax System 3 Aug

PA0208201194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1311 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 2 Aug (PL)—Tomorrow a plenary session of the Cuban parliament will debate a tax law aimed at strengthening national finances and establishing more controls in general on the economy.

The proposal should contribute in the near future to reducing the national budget deficit of 4 billion pesos (equivalent amount in dollars, according to the official exchange rate). Along with other measures, it will also help reduce the amount of excess currency in circulation, estimated by experts at more than 11 billion pesos.

The bill will be in the hands of working commissions of the National Assembly of the People's Government (parliament) until tomorrow, when it will be debated by the plenum.

According to Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez, the purpose of the bill is to create a national tax system that will effectively finance the budget and establish the necessary controls to regulate economic activities in enterprises (national or mixed capital), as well as in public institutions.

The proposed bill will restore tax payments after three decades during which the Cuban people lived without an overall tax system and with limited financial obligations with the state.

The bill establishes taxes on sales, personal or business income, property, tolls, airport services, classified ads, commercial advertisements in public places, and other areas.

Once analyzed by the parliament in sessions that begin tomorrow at the Conventions Palace, the legislative branch will submit the new law to the State Council for approval and subsequent implementation in 1995.

Revenues produced through the national tax system will be added to those obtained through gradual increases in the price of nonessential products and the elimination of gratuities, measures decreed during the past two months to strengthen the national economy.

ANPP Commissions Prepare for Tax Bill Debate

FL0208205194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The third regular session of the Fourth Legislature of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] begins tomorrow at Havana's Convention Center. The majority of the ANPP standing commissions today continue analyzing the text of the tax bill that will be debated tomorrow. The bill has many highly diverse chapters. I will list some:

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Taxes on personal income of national or foreign currency, based on amount; taxes on rents, and especially products to replace the current circulation [as heard] tax; taxes on utilities and property, or ownership of certain goods, as well as land motor vehicles, which might be paid annually; and a tax on ownership of properties or private homes, country homes, and vessels.

These are some of the articles included in the bill.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the ANPP, has stressed the need for establishing a tax system to mend and control Cuba's economic and financial crisis. The recommendations of the deputies in the commissions are diverse. Regarding personal income taxes, it was being discussed whether family allowances [dollars sent from abroad] should somehow be taxed, since they contribute to differences in economic solvency among Cuban families. The general opinion was not to tax these allotments.

The deputies also held significant discussions regarding taxes on property or home ownership. In Cuba, for example, home ownership transfers do not properly consider technical requirements, conditions, or time period under which a home was built. The cost of the ownership transfer process is not the same in all cases. Many requirements would have to be updated in order to implement such tax on property or home ownership.

Ministry Reports 'Moneybags' Confiscation Figures

FL0208193694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] A total of 377 people accused of violating Decree-Law 149 were under investigation as of 26 July, with property confiscation decrees issued in 15 of those cases. Today's GRANMA carries a Finances and Prices Ministry report, noting that the 3,470,232 pesos in goods and money confiscated from the first group of moneybags has been added to the national reserves. Among other goods, the following was confiscated in the 377 pending cases as a preventive measure: 373 cars, 166 motorcycles, 92 trucks, 270 homes, 71 tractors, approximately 7 million pesos, and $19,000.

Cienfuegos: Six-Month Tourism Figures Up 21 Percent

FL0208002694 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1952 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] In Havana City, Tourism Minister Osmany Cienfuegos has informed the press that during the first six month of the year, tourism results were in line with the estimates that had been made for that period.

Cienfuegos stated that during the first six months of 1994, the number of tourists visiting Cuba had increased 21 percent, compared to the same period last year, which represents approximately 350,000 tourists. Cienfuegos added that Cuba is striving to complete construction of 3,100 rooms for international tourism, 250 of which have already been completed with the inauguration of the Hotel Melia Las Americas, Cuba's first five-star hotel. Cienfuegos pointed out that the sector's structural process has been improved, and supported this by stating: The hotel chains operate with autonomy and independence.

Cienfuegos Party Secretary Discusses Achievements, Plans

FL3107223494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Interview with Manuel Menendez Castellanos, Cuban Communist Party (PCC) first secretary in Cienfuegos Province, by Manuel Varela Perez in Cienfuegos on 29 July; from the "Exclusive" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Varela] We are honored with the presence of Manuel Menendez Castellanos, PCC first secretary in the province. We thank him for graciously honoring the request to summarize Cienfuegos' main achievements and goals for the rest of the year. Menendez, we are in contact with the listeners of Radio Rebelde's "Exclusive" program.

[Menendez] Thank you, and greetings to everyone. The first semester in Cienfuegos was characterized by an important increase in the agricultural sector's production. All the production goals have practically been achieved, except for the production of tubers and vegetables—85 percent—but we have achieved production goals regarding eggs, milk, pork, poultry, honey, coffee—meaning all the other activities.

We will continue to work so we may provide food for the people and produce more tubers and vegetables in the organic orchards. We built 54 organic orchards during the first semester and will continue to develop the formulas on which we are currently working. We will continue to apportion land so people, pensioners, may till it to produce things we can use. In other words, we continue to work along those lines. We have made progress, but it still is our foremost task.

The construction of houses both in the countryside and in our cities....[pauses] We built 500 houses in the first semester, and everything seems to indicate we will eventually build approximately 700 houses. Transportation continues to improve, although this is not a key issue in the province. For example, we have built or rebuilt a considerable number of buses and, although this does not solve the problem, it is an important contribution.

The second semester should result in renewed efforts. New buses will be added to the routes—express buses, minibuses, and the so- called giant buses—so this represents an element of progress. Those are the main tasks I can enumerate. This is a summary. We will continue to

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work with unity, optimism, faith in victory, and deeply imbued in the belief that things can be done as our Revolutionary Armed Forces minister clearly stated. That is how we will continue to work.

Insurance Coverage Seen as State Source of Income

94CA0136A Havana GRANMA in Spanish 15 Jun 94 p 3

[Article by Isabel Morales]

[Text] Increasing the availability of insurance was one way of raising revenues for the budget that the People's Government National Assembly considered at its most recent special working session.

Jose Luis Rodriguez, minister of finance and prices, at that session spoke of the advantages of selling personal property and liability insurance which, he said, would help to protect people from risks without making direct outlays from the government budget.

Insurance is designed for the formation, administration, and distribution of a financial fund to make reparation for or to attenuate the consequences of unforeseen events. Of course, it also provides a by no means insignificant source of revenue for the budgets of countries where policies are sold by state enterprises, and it is often a good business for private companies which, through taxes or other economic formulas, also return part of their profits to society.

Internationally, the most popular insurance is personal insurance, which covers the possibilities of accidents and other contingencies, including life insurance. There are also maritime insurance, insurance covering houses and their contents, industrial, automobile, and liability insurance. Other types of insurance cover specific risks, like fires.

Most people with automobiles in Cuba know how insurance works and its benefits, as for many years there has been insurance for automotive vehicles, both old and new vehicles, covering the risk of fire, lightning, total or partial theft, robbery, collision, overturning, natural disasters (floods, for example), as well as damage to third parties, known as liability coverage.

In Cuba this type of insurance has so far been voluntary, but in many countries it is mandatory, making it in fact a sort of additional tax.

The ESEN [National Insurance Enterprise] also offers liability insurance for professional drivers, in general for those with drivers' licenses and to private carriers and members of ANCHAR [National Association of Revolutionary Taxi Drivers].

Bicycle insurance has been very well accepted in Cuba; for a modest annual premium it covers multiple risks: loss, damage, damage while being operated or transported, total theft, collision, natural disasters, building collapse, public disorders, and intentional actions or negligence by other persons; in addition, it covers damage caused by the insured owner to other parties. And if the bicycle's major components are damaged, the ESEN enables the owner to buy another bicycle.

Last year minivan insurance became available, because of their importance in transporting people in many provinces. This provides liability coverage and protects travelers against possible injuries.

In agriculture, insurance complements the government's support policy, because in its relationship with the CPA [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives], Credit and Services, and the UNBP [Basic Units of Cooperative Production], it provides coverage while it also enables the insured to continue production after they have experienced losses.

The imminent creation of new insurance possibilities will be backed by the 15 years of experience of the National Insurance Enterprise, and by the prestige which its work has earned it.

Ezequiel Garcia Castro, ESEN's deputy director, says this is in large part due to their professional staff, the fact that they do not needlessly complicate proceedings for paying insurance benefits to the client, and because there are many examples of rapid responses and support provided to people when they have needed such support.

In our conditions, insurance not only covers people but also helps to supplement protective measures provided by organizations like Civil Defense, Veterinary Medicine, Plant Health, and the Fire Department.

Apart from giving citizens new options of economic support in times of difficulty, the diversification of the types of insurance could provide new revenues for the state budget, as well as help to reduce the amount of currency in circulation.

The benefit will therefore be twofold for people with foresight: It will benefit both themselves and the nation.

Division General Praises Eastern Army's Achievements

FL0208155694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] first vice minister and head of the general staff, presided over a ceremony following Eastern Army inspections in Holguin today. Raul Castro, army general and FAR minister, inspected some of the army's units 6-12 July. The units and the Eastern Army, as a whole, received good grades. Ulises Rosales del Toro praised the heads, officers, soldiers, and civilian workers of the Eastern Army for their efforts and achievements.

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TRABAJADORES Editorial on Political, Economic Change

FL0208001294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] TRABAJADORES newspaper today published an editorial analyzing the interrelationship between political and economic problems, and the fact that political change must not be a passive result of an economic model's evolution. The commentary says, therefore, that the political factor must be the driving force that organizes and controls changes necessary in our society's economic sector.

The newspaper states: Experience has shown us that, without true leadership and the party's hegemony, revolutions are wasted, they come to nothing, they are betrayed.

Later on it reasserts: Revolutions will be strong in proportion to the strength of the Revolution's party—and the whole universe of political organizations that are comprised by the people. The editorial published in the Cuban Workers Federation's newspaper explains that this analysis refers to the party meetings that have recently been held in all the country's regions.

The meetings have clearly revealed the need to renew creative thought, sponsor the masses' participation, constantly strive to achieve perfection, and exercise dispassionate criticism.

Aruba

Opposition Wins Elections; AVP Becomes Largest Party

BR0208130894 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 30 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Opposition Winning Elections on Aruba, OLA Biggest Surprise"]

[Text] Oranjestad—The opposition parties won the elections on Aruba yesterday [29 July]. The Christian-Democratic AVP (Aruban People's Party) became the biggest party, with 10 seats.

The AVP will presumably form a coalition government with the recently established OLA [Aruban Liberal Party], a party with which it had already concluded a pact before the elections. The OLA won two seats. Prime Minister Nel Oduber's ruling social-democratic MEP (People's Electoral Movement), which got nine seats, will probably be forced into opposition.

The fourth party which took part in the elections, the PPA (Aruban Patriotic Party), failed to get a seat for the first time since 1954. After more than 40 years, the PPA's role on Aruba's political scene seems to be played out.

Of the 46,000 Aruban voters, 85 percent participated in the elections. These elections, which were organized after the government had fallen last April, took place without any major incidents. "The elections proceeded quietly," government spokeswoman Nilda Koolman stated.

The biggest surprise of yesterday's elections came from the OLA, which is led by Glenbert Croes, son of the legendary Betico Croes. The party, which doubled its number of seats, is a splinter party of the MEP. During its electoral campaign, the OLA presented itself as "the serious alternative" for the traditional opponents AVP and MEP.

Former Prime Minister Henny Eman of the AVP had hoped he would win at least 11 seats so he would not have to form a coalition. Now that his party got one seat less, he is forced to team up with the OLA in the new Aruban legislature.

Government spokeswoman Koolman expects the new government and prime minister to be known by next week.

Now that there is a serious possibility that the MEP, which had still won the elections in January this year, is forced to go into opposition, party leader Oduber will probably have to make place for resigning Justice Minister Rudy Croes, brother of the late Betico Croes.

Aruba, which has a total population of 70,000, separated from the Netherlands Antilles in 1986. At that time, the island was promised full independence within 10 years.

Dominican Republic

Electoral Board Certifies Balaguer's Election Victory

PA0208214394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2057 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer was declared today the winner of the 16 May presidential election, which has been described by the opposition as fraudulent and characterized as irregular by international observers.

The Central Electoral Board [JCE] certified Balaguer's victory this afternoon through a document that will be presented to the National Assembly (Congress) in order to guarantee the trustworthiness of the process and to proclaim Balaguer's third reelection in a row.

The JCE has dismissed the challenges of the Dominican opposition, which had been demanding the general annulment of the election. The JCE also annulled the possibility of reelections at the regional levels.

The party of presidential candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, the Executive Committee of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, held an emergency meeting this

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Tuesday and convoked the party's national representatives to a meeting to establish the party's position.

More on Electoral Board Ruling

PA0208233594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2152 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Aug (EFE)—President Joaquin Balaguer was today declared winner of the 16 May general elections, described by the opposition as fraudulent and by international observers as irregular.

The Central Electoral Board (JCE) issued its final decree, which must be reported to the National Assembly (Senate and Chamber of Deputies) so those bodies can proclaim the winner. In this case, it was a reelection.

According to the proclamation minutes, Joaquin Balaguer, who is 87 years old and blind, led Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), by 22,281 votes. Pena Gomez heads the Santo Domingo Agreement alliance with other center-left parties.

Balaguer's Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) and its allies received 1,275,460 votes to 1,253,179 received by the PRD.

The minutes, signed by the five Electoral Tribunal magistrates, were read in the JCE's main room by JCE Secretary General Amable Diaz Castillo amid strict security.

The declaration of victory was made 76 days after the elections.

The official result was delayed after the opposition PRD denounced "a colossal fraud," which prompted the Electoral Tribunal to review and investigate the tally sheets.

The Dominican elections were also questioned by international observers and by the U.S. Government, which suggested that new elections be held to correct the mistakes reported by the opposition.

The PRD reported that the names of more than 200,000 Pena Gomez supporters were switched on the lists, thus preventing the PRD from winning.

The PRD also requested the annulment of the elections in various districts where, according to the PRD, their members were prevented from voting.

Nevertheless, the JCE rejected these opposition requests and annulled a decision by the JCE in the National District, which ruled that elections in the capital were invalid.

The main opposition party, the PRD, led by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, will hold an emergency meeting tonight to analyze the Electoral Tribunal's decision.

In addition, the PRD summoned for tomorrow all its national representatives to decide on the course to follow in view of the Electoral Tribunal decision.

Other opposition organizations called for a general strike.

Previously, organizations called "Struggle Against Fraud" conducted partial strikes in the Dominican Republic to reject the possibility of Balaguer's proclamation.

This morning the National Police restricted its members to the garrisons and increased surveillance in the low income neighborhoods that supported last week's strike.

However, Defense Minister Lieutenant General Constantino Matos Villanueva rejected the idea of restricting soldiers to their garrisons. Matos Villanueva said that the "country's situation does not call for restricting the soldiers to their garrisons because Balaguer was proclaimed winner of the 16 May elections."

Judge Refuses To Sign Decree

PA0208220294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2016 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Aug (EFE)—A member of the Central Electoral Board (JCE) said today that he will not sign the proclamation declaring Joaquin Balaguer and his Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) winners in the 16 May elections.

Electoral Tribunal Judge Fulgencio Robles Lopez rejected the partial results of the JCE's provisional tallies, which gave Balaguer a 22,291-vote advantage.

"If I sign it, I need to have it on record that I do not agree with the vote tally. If it is done that way, then I will sign; otherwise I will not," he said.

Judge Robles Lopez was nominated to form part of the Electoral Tribunal by the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD).

The PRD, which backs the candidacy of Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, is continuing a campaign at home and abroad denouncing a "colossal fraud" against the party by the PRSC in complicity with the JCE.

Dominicans have been waiting for more than two and a half months since the elections were held for the JCE to decide who won.

Armed Forces To Utilize 'All Resources' To Maintain Peace

PA0308051394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0410 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 2 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic assured today that they will utilize all resources to maintain peace following the official confirmation of President Joaquin Balaguer's electoral victory.

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In a communique issued after the Central Electoral Board [JCE] announced Balaguer's victory in the presidential elections held on 16 May, the military command stated "all resources will be used to maintain peace in the country." [passage omitted]

Francisco Pena Gomez, opposition candidate of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], has called for a meeting of the party's central committee to evaluate the situation.

PRD militants gathered in front of the opposition party's headquarters where they clashed with police. According to security forces, at least one person was injured in the demonstration.

PRD spokesmen initially stated a demonstrator, David Estevez, had been killed when a shot was fired from a moving vehicle. Police spokesmen have denied this report, saying the young man was wounded and is being treated in a hospital.

Other incidents between demonstrators and policemen occurred near the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, where policemen used tear gas against the youths who torched vehicles and tires.

Meanwhile, Michael McCurry, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, expressed regret that the Dominican JCE has ruled in favor of Balaguer despite the "irregularities" detected in the elections.

Haiti

Government Communique Protests UN Resolution 940

FL0208172894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The government is keenly protesting UN Resolution 940:

The Information, Culture, and Coordination Ministry has issued a communique claiming that this resolution clears the way for a military force to be sent to the Republic to reinstate former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The government reminds foreign leaders in its communique that it was invested in compliance with the Constitution in force in the sovereign Republic of Haiti—which is not at war with any nation—and that it does not have to accept dictates from anybody. The government wants to respect the mandate it was granted by the Haitian parliamentary assembly to establish democracy through free, honest, and democratic elections.

Furthermore, the government says the Haitian people learned about the UN Security Council decisions of 31 July with dismay. The communique states that the United Nations, whose honorable members have always struggled against interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, has set a precedent by imposing Resolution 940 on nations intimidated by our great neighbor to the north's hegemonic power. The Republic of Haiti considers this deed a blatant violation of the universal principles of international law and condemns this offense.

The government communique concludes by warning friendly nations of the hemisphere that adopting this iniquitous decision today leaves the door open to possible aggression from great powers that want to dominate the world at all costs.

More on Government Communique

PA0208164394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1527 GMT 2 Aug 94

[By Herold Jean Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Aug (EFE)—Haiti's de facto government today described the UN resolution authorizing the invasion of Haiti to restore democracy as "an unprecedented and iniquitous action." Meanwhile, Marc Bazin, the former coupist prime minister, joined those who are asking General Raoul Cedras to retire.

In the communique against the decision made by the United Nations on Sunday, that was read over the radio today, the Haitian authorities accused the United States of wanting to impose its hegemonic will through threats against other countries in the region.

In their protest note, the same political leaders who backed the ouster of constitutional President Jean Bertrand Aristide in 1991—who is now in exile—claim that the current government is legitimate becasue it was "legally constituted."

A coup headed by Armed Forces Commander Raoul Cedras and supported by top leaders of the other military branches overthrew Aristide.

On 11 May, in the most unconstitutional action seen in this crisis period, a group of senators appointed Emile Jonassaint as the new provisional president, violating Article 149 of the Haitian Constitution.

In the communique, the de facto government added that it is not at war with anyone and reaffirmed its willingness "to follow through with its mandate to restore democracy by holding elections."

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Marc Bazin urged coupist General Raoul Cedras to retire as commander in chief of the Army and contact President Aristide to discuss a reciprocal nonaggression pact between the chief of state and the Army.

In a statement read over Radio Metropole today, Bazin, who was prime minister from 19 June 1992 to 8 June 1993, said that now no one can pretend not to know the danger that hovers over the nation.

"It is time to use all the necessary means to talk to President Aristide for the sake of our homeland and the survival of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] so that

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the nation can be spared a tremendous humiliation, and to tell him you are ready to retire," Bazin told Cedras.

Bazin asked Gen. Cedras to guarantee to President Aristide that the FADH will respect election results and that security of officials elected by the people will be preserved.

According to Bazin, President Aristide should "give up all efforts at publicity-seeking democracy [democracia publicitaria]," as well as "violent solutions and the exploitation of the legitimate frustration of the people and the young population."

In recent days, several prominent Haitian politicians have addressed Gen. Cedras to ask him to retire and to save the country from foreign intervention.

The Chamber of Deputies, meanwhile, convened its members for a meeting this afternoon in which they will discuss the latest events of the crisis.

The Defense and Interior Ministry announced several measures to defend the national territory "against any foreign aggression." These measures include the creation of a commission to issue instructions to the population.

The Ministries of Information, Interior and Defense asked the media to abstain from spreading "alarmist" reports, which could cause alarm among the population, and prohibited the dissemination of information that could be categorized as "foreign propaganda."

To this effect, the de facto government recalled restrictions contained in the decree issued on 21 November 1977 that regulate communications in Haiti and threaten the media, particularly radio stations, with suspension of permits.

These legal provisions grant members of the military the power to seize control of the installations and the equipment belonging to radio stations for reasons of national security.

Political Parties React to UN Resolution 940

FL0208235694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 2000 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Report By Tara Merceda]

[Text] The political parties in Haiti did not take long to react to the UN Security Council vote on 31 July authorizing the United States to intervene in Haiti. The political parties condemning Resolution 940 react in diverse ways. Let us listen to some of them in a report by Tara Merceda:

[Begin recording] [Merceda] Twenty-four hours after the UN Security Council resolution, many political parties in the country began to react. According to the National Coalition, the Haitian people are not ready to forget the names of all the countries that support the United States' invasion of Haitian territory. According to the spokesman for the National Coalition, Carl Denis, the Haitian people intend to fight anyone who comes to Haiti, in every city, and in all rural sectors, day and night, until they win.

[Denis, in French] The National Coalition expresses with bitterness how, deferring to the will of the new Hitler, the members of the Security Council threw Haiti to the lions at the caprice of Bill Clinton, sending the Haitian people to a new martyrdom and to the worst exactions. The Haitian nation promises to remember those who made it easy for them. To those who are getting ready to invade, the Haitian people assert that they will fight them in the cities and on countryside. They will fight them in the slums and in the palaces. They will fight them day and night. They will fight them incessantly, until the last victory, so that the soundness of their cause will not fail to show them.

[Merceda] For the Liaison of Democratic Forces, LDF, the Security Council violated the fundamental Charter of the United Nations when it gave the Americans the right to land on Haiti. LDF spokesman, Daniel Narcisse, feels that Haiti has no problem with any foreigners who could justify an intervention in Haiti today. Daniel Narcisse's political party calls on the population to remain mobilized in order to defend Haiti.

[Narcisse] In facing such a threat, LDF asks all Haitians to get ready to defend the land of Dessalines. The liaison asks all political parties, all organizations, all nationalists, and all regular military to rally to defend the country. We must all rally to help them. We are asking everyone to get ready because we are going to make a national demonstration very soon against the so-called Friends of Haiti, who are actually responsible for what Haiti is facing right now. If other embassies also agree on the invasion, we will go to them as well. [as heard]

[Merceda] Reynold Georges stated that he had warned that with Jonassaint as President, Haiti would be invaded. The leader of ALAH [Alliance for the Liberation and Progress of Haiti], who denounces a murder threat against him, says he holds the current authorities responsible for everything that happens to Haiti in the coming days.

[Georges] Instead of making his mea culpas to the people, offering his excuses, and resigning to avoid an invasion, I heard that Jonassaint declared a state of siege. He thus assumed two powers, since only the National Assembly can declare a state of siege and advise [as heard] the constitutional guarantees that are temporarily suspended.

[Merceda] The leader of Mobilization for National Development, MDN's Hubert DeRonceray, considers the decision of the United Nations a scandal noncompliant with the San Francisco Charter. According to DeRonceray, the United Nations has become a tool in the hands of the big powers instead of serving as a tool for peace. DeRonceray adds that if the United States

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intervenes in Haiti, it will be within the framework of the new policy of recolonizing Third World countries, called the New World Order.

[DeRonceray] If the U.S. military invasion occurs in Haiti, if President Clinton decides to do this, it will add to the total disaster already prevailing in Haiti and will have unpredictable, incalculable consequences not only for Haiti, but for all Latin American countries, and all of the Third World. If it is Haiti today, the others will have their turn tomorrow.

[Merceda] The National Congress of Democratic Movements, CONACOM, asks General Cedras to respect the commitment that he made in the Governors Island agreement to resign. CONACOM points out that Resolution 940 of the UN Security Council has two purposes: First, according to CONACOM, most of the countries in the United Nations have given the mandate to the United States to send a multinational force to invade Haiti and force the military, especially Gen. Cedras, to resign. The party points out that the two resolutions the Security Council took previously, against Iraq and Somalia, were applied in all their points. Thus, Haiti's invasion seems imminent. CONACOM gives a new meaning to Resolution 940. For Victor Benoit's party, the landing of Americans and other foreigners in Haiti is an event that can be avoided if the military involved would resign voluntarily. CONACOM cannot accept that a military institution that has responsibility for guaranteeing the national security could throw itself into an adventure that it will not be able to survive. [end recording]

Further on Parties' Reaction

FL0208224294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Last paragraph broadcast in French]

[Excerpts] Following the Security Council vote, all political parties are opposed to an invasion of Haiti, but some demand the resignation of General Cedras and others and the dismissal of the President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The political parties have begun to give their opinions. They all oppose military intervention in Haiti, convinced that intervention would not necessarily bring a solution to the political crisis. The first reactions include one from the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom]. [passage omitted].

Addressing the Army commander in chief, Conacom tells Gen. Cedras: It is not a time for stubbornness. It is a time to abandon the suicidal position that can provoke the ruin of all the institutions; consequently, the whole country.

According to the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] of Professor Hubert de Ronceray, the decision of the Security Council represents a slap in the face of the San Francisco Charter and the inauguration of a new policy in Haiti of recolonization of the Third World, now being called the New World Order. MDN called on the parliament to dismiss President Aristide. MDN also asked the Justice Department to give an immediate verdict on the crime of high treason of this citizen.

According to MRN [National Reconstruction Movement], some military leaders knowingly sought the use of force to solve the crisis in Haiti. They want to be known as heroes after having participated in the country's destruction, explains Senator Rony Mondestin of MRN who denounces the illegal character of the state of siege declared by the Jonassaint government.

[Begin Senator Rony Mondestin recording, in Creole] I believe that Cedras is not worth an intervention. He does not deserve that. He does not have that kind of caliber. But I remain convinced that somewhere, part of the Haitian Army works toward that end—not in the sense that it is they who created the provocation, but that they well know that that is the goal for which they aim. They have certain social sectors among them that speak against intervention, but deep-down, are working for the intervention—first, to secure all the tax evasions and embezzlements they have acquired; second, to give themselves the pathological illusion of hero; and third, to continue providing service to foreign forces that are their natural bosses. As I see it, there is a segment of the Army leadership that is perhaps even paid to achieve that. When someone tells me that the choice is between an intervention and a negotiated solution, which can provide an honorable exit for some military chiefs, whether the country is being destroyed or not, whether gasoline costs $27 or not, whether a sack of cement costs $32 or not—and the Army leadership prefers that gasoline costs that much—well, one must believe that the Army leadership does not only not like the country, it has a mission to accomplish, to have an intervention to reform the Army.

It is important that all parts of society—professionals, business people, the media, youth civilian organizations—do not bother with those outlaws who want to dictate their lifestyle. There is no state of siege. Bandits cannot take power with weapons and impose their wishes. That is not true. The population must not bother with those outlaws giving them orders, period. [end recording]

Ministry Assures Measures Taken To Defend Territory

FL0208180794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The Interior and National Defense Ministry has issued a communique on defending national territory. The Ministry points out that, in light of UN Resolution 940, measures have been taken to defend national soil from external aggression and to safeguard the lives and property of nationals and foreigners. A commission has been set up, and the public will be issued orders as the situation develops.

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Ministries Remind Press of Right To Defend, Take Facilities

FL0208183394 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The Interior and National Defense Ministry and the Information, Coordination, and Culture Ministry have advised the local press that, in line with the state of siege that the government of the Republic ordered on the night of 31 July-1 August, it is their duty to maintain peace and calm by refraining from any alarmist or tendentious broadcasts and to resist turning into foreign propaganda tools. The Ministries remind the press that, in accordance with Article 130 of the 21 November 1977 decree, telecommunications installations can be requisitioned at any time for defense and national security purposes. The Ministries call on the media to strictly observe these clauses or risk having the concessions, authorizations, or permits that had been granted to them provisionally suspended at any time. This communique is signed by Carl-Michel Nicolas, interior and national defense minister, and Jacques Saint-Louis, information, coordination, and culture minister.

Report Indicates U.S. Military Intervention Not Imminent

FL0208200094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] There is a new phase to the threat of military intervention in Haiti. The United States has received the green light from the United Nations to intervene in Haiti, but no date has yet been fixed by the Clinton administration, for which one of the last obstacles has been lifted. The next step, the most difficult one, is to convince the Latin American countries, which are already very reluctant and opposed to joining the multinational force that would invade Haiti. According to Washington, the threat of intervention, even if not immiment, has become more serious. Ansy-Rose Resignac filed a report:

[Begin Reporter Ansy-Rose Resignac recording] If the resolution of the UN Security Council opens the path to military intervention in Haiti, the invasion is not likely to be imminent, no deadline having been given for a military intervention, nor for the return to power of President Aristide. Resolution 940, for the time being, only allows Washington to increase pressure on the military by making the threats that have been brandished for months, credible. Let us recall by comparison that a similar UN resolution, the one that preceded Operation Desert Storm against Iraq in 1991, had an ultimatum attached to it. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, quoting officials of the U.S. Aministration, it will take weeks before President Clinton makes a firm decision, but it will more likely be short term than long term, indicated the U.S. ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright. Another sign that the invasion is not imminent is the fact that Albright also pointed out that Washington is trying hard to reinforce the economic sanctions, the effects of which the U.S. Administration has always indicated it was willing to wait for.

The United States must first convince their Latin American and Caribbean allies to join the multinational force that would invade Haiti, as well as the UN mission, which is due to take over after the invasion. Meanwhile, candidates are scarce. Mexico, Uruguay, Cuba, Venezuela, and Brazil did not support the UN resolution. Only Argentina announced its intention to send 600 troops to Haiti, under the condition, however, that its parliament authorize it. It should be said that according to some military experts, a few hours will be enough for the elite U.S. troops to muzzle the Haitian Army, but then the problems would begin with risks of sinking and of guerrilla attacks. The United States must also influence its Congress, which is very reluctant, and public opinion, which still remembers the disastrous U.S. intervention in Somalia. Finally, the threat of a flow of Haitian refugees to the United States has subsided these past weeks, which makes the use of force to oust the military from power even less urgent. Now, with the last great obstacle lifted, the final decision could be made at any time, even if it only becomes known after the fact. [end recording]

ALAH Leader Reynold Georges Shot; Condition Stable

FL0208211894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Interview with Mrs. Reynold Georges by Rotschild Francois, Jr.— live or recorded]

[Text] The declaration of a state of siege is illegal according to Washington and a group of Haitian parliamentarians. Technical considerations by Attorney Mireille Durocher Bertin will be broadcast in a moment. We will return to these points directly following this interview by Rotschild Francois, Jr. with the wife of Alliance for the Liberation and Progress of Haiti, [ALAH] leader Reynold Georges' wife who confirms that her husband was shot in the Delmas area on 1 August at about 1730-1800. Reynold Georges is nevertheless reportedly in stable condition for the moment.

[Mrs. Georges] He was injured. [Words indistinct] impact of several bullets. The car... [changes thought] this happened in Delmas, near La Coupole restaurant yesterday afternoon.

[Francois] At about what time?

[Georges] At about 1730-1800.

[Francois] How did that happen? Were you in the car?

[Georges] No, no, I was not with him. He was accompanied by some people. I believe that one of them was also injured. But, personally, I was not with him. He...

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[changes thought] Well, he told me it was a police car with military men and civilians inside.

[Francois] Mrs. Georges, how is Mr. Georges at this time?

[Georges] Well, he is stable. That is good. They have been able to extract the bullets that went through him. That is good.

[Francois] Is he at the hospital?

[Georges] No.

[Francois] How many bullet wounds were found?

[Georges] On him?

[Francois] Yes.

[Georges] Three. There were superficial bullet wounds, fragments that have not yet been removed. So, I cannot tell you exactly, but the bullet that most... [changes thought] they extracted the one that went into him more deeply. Then, there are bullet holes on the car, the windows of the car that flew into pieces and so on.

[Francois] Is his life in danger?

[Georges] No.

Bazin Recommends Peaceful Pact Between Cedras, Aristide

FL0208220594 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The political party, MIDH, Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, has expressed its position. The MIDH leader again calls for a peaceful solution in Haiti. In analyzing the latest developments in the situation, especially the vote by the Security Council, Marc L. Bazin indicates that no one can any longer pretend not to see, not understand what is happening. They can no longer say later that they did not know. Marc Bazin therefore invites General Cedras to contact Father Aristide, in view of asserting his anticipated retirement. In exchange, Marc Bazin demands the signing of a pact of reciprocal nonaggression among the Army, the political forces, and the Aristide government. Marc L. Bazin opposes the use of force to solve the crisis in Haiti.

[Begin recording] I am today addressing Gen. Cedras to suggest to him that the time has come for him to use all necessary means to directly contact Father Aristide and tell him the following—for the sake of the common homeland, in the interest of unity and the preservation of the integrity of the Haitian Armed Forces, and for the purpose of sparing the nation supreme humiliation: I Gen. Cedras am ready to step down. In exchange, I am asking to subscribe to a pact of reciprocal nonaggression among the Army, the political forces, and your government, a pact by which the Army will solemnly commit to assuring respect for electoral deadlines, and will facilitate the peaceful, regular exercise of power by the authorities freely chosen by the people. If, in exchange for my decision to confirm my request for anticipated retirement, you could commit yourself to renouncing all forms of plebiscite democracy and all attempts at societal purification by fear, fire, and violence; if in exchange for the commitment of the Haitian Armed Forces to remain in their barracks and serve the law, justice, and democracy, you would agree to renounce exploitation of the legitimate frustrations of the people and the youth for the purpose of personal revenge and destruction of the state, then, in a common agreement, you and I could turn to the international community to discuss the principles, the modes and mechanisms of execution of the facts of the pact to which we will subscribe. [end recording]

Opposition Leader Delivers Independence Day Message

FL0208124394 Kingston JBC Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Opposition leader Edward Seaga has described Jamaica as a nation without direction. In his Independence message, Mr. Seaga says the poor economic conditions are reflected in the reduction of festival activities:

[Begin Seaga recording] (?And) less than six years away from a new (?census), we are a nation overcome by an absence of byelections and (?internally) reaching from crisis to crisis, and then they have a whole new sense of (?this). The annual festival this year seems to have become a casualty of the times (?for which we are part). The event has been scaled down, and there is little left for participation by the mass of the people. If we are to have celebrations, we must involve the people, even when the nation has become a victim of (?hard times). [end recording]

Mr. Seaga says this year is an extremely important one for the nation. He added that crucial economic, constitutional, and political reforms are now being prepared in order to respect urgently needed changes.

[Kingston RJR Network in English at 1200 GMT on 1 August leads its report on Seaga's message with the following: "And while lamenting the problems faced by the nation, opposition leader Edward Seaga has noted the importance of observing independence." RJR then carries a recording of Seaga's remarks, which includes the remarks aired on JBC and the following two sentences: "Perhaps, therefore, celebration is not the word for this independence. Perhaps the more appropriate word is commemoration, because we cannot get the [words indistinct]." RJR ends its report: "Mr. Seaga also urged all Jamaicans to take an interest in matters related to constitutional, political, and economic reforms."]

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Use Peaceful Means Before Intervention in Haiti, Government Reiterates

PA0308045894 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Aug 94 p 10

[Text] The use of violence or force has historically demonstrated it only generates more violence and has never been a solution to political conflicts. Therefore, Mexico will maintain its unalterable position concerning an "eventual invasion of Haiti; that is, it will insist the international community" resort to other peaceful means. That statement was said by a diplomat close to the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations who recalled Mexico was one of the few nations that rejected the intervention in Iraq in 1991 and supported aid for Rwanda in order to avoid the genocide of thousands of Rwandans.

Meanwhile, European bloc diplomats accredited in Mexico have acknowledged Mexico's reasons for rejecting the intervention of Haiti, but they clarified this is position is backed by the UN Security Council, not by a nation that is attempting to violate the territory of a nation. Arguing the situation in Haiti, with the flow of thousands of Haitians who are attempting to flee from that nation every hour, could destabilize the region and heighten the violation of human rights of hundreds of human beings who now face military repression and extreme poverty. [sentence as published]

Commerce Secretariat Announces Quotas on U.S. Steel

PA0208145994 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The Commerce Secretariat has announced that Mexico will impose compensatory quotas of up to 78 percent on U.S. steel imports. U.S. companies exported steel to Mexico at preferential prices, thus affecting local producers.

Salinas Meets With Representatives of Chiapas Peasants

PA0208232794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Juan Ayon from Los Pinos Presidential Palace; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Salinas met with representatives of the Chiapas peasant communities at Los Pinos Presidential Palace today. During a ceremony held at the entrance of the official presidential residence, Los Pinos, President Salinas spoke before leaders of approximately 230 Chiapas peasant communities and condemned the war, because it only brings more poverty. He said efforts will continue to be made on the path of dialogue in favor of a national consensus to the armed conflict:

[Salinas] "The government's response is clear and determined. We will continue with actions favoring a dignified peace, social justice, and social coexistence within the framework of the law. We will strive to have food instead of war; health instead of war; education instead of war; respect for human rights instead of war; justice instead of war; harmony amid diversity and plurality instead of war; jobs, opportunities for you, your children, and future generations that will place demands on us. Instead of actions of force, there must be respect for the people's rights."

Regarding the presence of the Mexican Army in the Chiapas conflict, the president reiterated that the Army is there as a force favoring peace, the peace demanded by true residents of Chiapas, those who have been working, living, and coexisting in the jungles and highlands of Chiapas for years:

[Salinas] "I reiterate, therefore, the Mexican Army will not act, at least not unless it is attacked. It exists there as a force favoring peace so that peace will exist in the region, so that it will not be the voice of weapons that prevails but, rather, the voice of the organized people, as you have done by engaging in dialogue to continue overcoming your longstanding claims."

Addressing Indian and peasant leaders of peasant unions of the jungle and of the peasant struggle, who requested a political solution to the conflicts and demanded justice and dignity, the president said that there will be specific actions to respond to their demands and that everyone will be called upon to respect the law, even the Indian chiefs:

[Salinas] "That response means there will be specific actions in favor of health; in favor of education; in favor of the children; in favor of teachers; in favor of the communities; in favor of a respect for human rights so that it will not be the chiefs who will impose their laws but, rather, will abide by the laws. That point is explicitly stated in the 32 points to which the government responded, positively and generously, seeking to arrive at a dignified peace with justice to end the Chiapas conflict."

Salinas said: To take justice and welfare to Chiapas is a proposal we share with residents of Chiapas, and we will extend it through the Solidarity Program, which has benefited millions of Mexicans in the past five years. The proposal of the path of arms did not find an echo in the rest of the country due to the benefits of the Solidarity Program; instead, there was a call for dignified peace and justice, the president added.

EZLN Issues Communique on National Convention

PA0308040694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 31 Jul pp 17, 21

[Communique by the Clandestine Revolutionary Indian Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National

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Liberation Army, EZLN, issued from "the mountains of the Mexican southeast" on 27 June]

[Text] To the Mexicans who will participate in the first session of the National Democratic Convention [CND]:

To the Mexican people:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

Brothers:

The EZLN, in keeping with its policy of clarifying its positions to the Mexican people, publicly presents the document that incorporates the main points of the position the Zapatist delegates will take to the first session of the CND, scheduled for 6 to 9 August 1994 in Chiapas, Mexico.

We respectfully invite Mexicans and Mexican organizations to attend the first CND session in order to analyze these positions, to criticize them, contribute to them, reject them, or, if they agree with them in whole or part, to support them together with the EZLN, at the debate tables and the full session.

Why is a transition government and a new Constitution necessary for the democratic change in Mexico?

1. Because we are breaking away from a dictatorship, from a dictatorial political system defined by a state party and a presidential government, a political system that bases its power on the usurpation of the people's will and on the imposition of an economic project that sacrifices the largest social sectors of the nation for the benefit of a handful of families, among whom are the families of the rulers.

2. Because, once that dictatorship is destroyed, it will be necessary to make new opportunities for political relations.

3. Because these new opportunities for political relations should be based on justice, the guarantee of a life with dignity for all Mexicans, a roof over one's head, land, work, food, education, health, independence, freedom, democracy, justice, and peace.

A Transition Government

1. A democratic transition government is NOT a transitory government; it is NOT a temporary government; it is NOT an interim government; it is NOT an emergency government.

2. A democratic transition government is a government with a political program for the democratization of the nation's political life. It is a government that makes a commitment to open all opportunities for legal and peaceful political participation so that the various political forces, partisan or not, can express themselves, present their proposals to the people, and equally compete for the people's support.

Political participation is not limited to the electoral aspect with a transition government. There are realities in our country that are not legally recognized, realities such as: forms of self-government in the Indian communities; the growing participation of nonpartisan political groups; the need to consult with the people on the decisions that concern the country's interests; and the work of political parties and organizations that are not legally registered because their legal existence is limited by fraudulent electoral results.

3. A democratic transition government is a government that has a political program which breaks with the political system of a state party and a presidential government. It is a government that makes a commitment to break up the wedlock between government and party and strengthens the other branches of the union so that the executive power can fulfill, exclusively, its executive function and the compliance of laws and dispositions generated by the legislative power, which is the result of the people's will.

4. A democratic transition government is a government that allows, through governmental provisions, a transition from an authoritarian and corrupt system to a system based on a new political culture. Under a government of democratic transition, opportunities are open for the manifestation of ALL political trends.

5. A government of democratic transition is a government that breaks from a dictatorship of the state-party and a presidential government and sets the DEMOCRATIC bases for a new political system.

The CND should speak out in favor of a program of struggle, the convention's program, which, in its political aspect, demands a government of democratic transition.

Constituent Congress

1. The current law is not enough to incorporate and channel the political demands of Democracy, Freedom, and Justice. The last reforms to the Constitution are not mere six-year adaptions; they are true constitutional COUNTER-REFORMS. As a result, in 1994 the current Constitution lost the social spirit of that of 1917 and is, therefore, incapable of holding back the new realities emerging in Mexico's political life.

2. A constituent congress is needed to analyze the country's current Constitution due to the Mexican people's social demands and the many forms of civic participation that emerged due to the government's authoritarian attitude.

3. The constituent congress must be represented by all federal institutions; all municipalities; all Indian communities; the many social and civic organizations; the many national, regional, and local political organizations, as well as by social, technical, and juridical organizations.

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4. The National Democratic Convention is NOT the Constituent Congress; the National Democratic Convention advocates the summoning of a pluralistic, representative, national, and civic constituent congress.

The National Democratic Convention must advocate a program of struggle, a program that will legally demand the summoning of a constituent congress.

A New Constitution

1. It is necessary to revise our current Constitution, because it no longer follows the essential principles that inspired the 1917 Constituent Congress.

2. Mexico needs a new political Constitution which, based on the 1917 Constitution, will again embrace political and social rights, including the changes which our reality demands and which neoliberalism eliminated. In addition, the Constitution and the country's set of laws must legalize such new realities such as the plebiscite, the referendum, the autonomy of the Indian communities, the political rights of nonpolitical civic groups, the right to hold political activities by small, regional, local, or national groups and the enforcement of the laws sanctioning the criminal behaviors of public officials.

3. Mexico's new political Constitution must incorporate the civic demands and the right of all Mexicans to pursue their happiness, as well as the right to own a decent home and land; the right to have a good job and a fair salary; access to good food and efficient and free medical care; the right to have national freedom to decide the country's fate without any type of foreign intervention; the right to enforce the law under the principles of equality and legality, fully respecting human rights; the right to freely speak about political, social, and ideological issues; the right to have a democracy that will elect or dismiss a type of government and its officials; and the right to have peace coupled with justice and dignity.

The National Democratic Convention must advocate a program of struggle, a program that will legally demand a new Constitution that will include the essential principles of the 1917 Constitution, that will recognize Mexico's new reality and include Mexicans' rights to a home, land, work, food, health, education, information, culture, independence, democracy, freedom, justice, and peace.

The convention will also advocate a peaceful transition to democracy, elections, and civil resistance and will defend the people's resolve.

1. The fight for a peaceful transition includes an electoral fight.

2. During the upcoming electoral process, authorities and political organizations must be urged to hold honest, free, and fair elections.

3. All citizens must exercise their rights to cast their free, direct, secret, and peaceful votes. Citizens must freely participate in the electoral process, demanding full respect for the right to vote freely and asserting the right to make the voting process valid prior to, during, and following the elections.

4. All authorities must respect the freedom, legality, secrecy, and impartiality of the electoral process and abstain from engaging in any activity which, directly and indirectly, will obstruct the honesty, legality, and objectivity of the elections.

5. All electoral organizations, political parties, national and foreign observers, and citizens must participate in the elections by obeying the law and respecting the people's resolve freely stated.

6. The lack of democratic, honest, legal, impartial, and reliable elections is a threat to peace.

7. The state party-presidential government wedlock represents the main obstacle to democracy in Mexico. The Mexican political system, based on this antidemocratic practice, cannot survive and guarantee the nation's stability. The electoral struggle to reach democracy in Mexico takes on the quality of a vote against the state party. Staging an electoral fight for democracy in Mexico means voting against the candidates of the Institutional Revolutionary Party and their alternates.

8. The fight for democracy, freedom, and justice in Mexico does not begin or end with the elections. The electoral fight is but one aspect of the fight for democracy. The electoral struggle does not end or fulfill the strengthening of independent organizations, the fight for social demands and civic rights, and the defense of the people's achievements. Defending the vote does not only mean defending the people's resolve.

9. The Civil Resistance does not mean to support a ruler or a government through casting or defending a vote; the Civil Resistance is the legitimate defense of the people's resolve in view of the government's authoritarianism. The Civil Resistence becomes Civil Insurgency as the fight to exercise rights and meet the people's demands, through any means available, moves on. The electoral fight is only one component of the civil insurgency, and defending the vote is only one component of the defense of the people's resolve. The Civil Insurgency is the movement around a revolutionary program for the people that will outperform any governmental program. The problem with the Civil Insurgency is not who is in power but how to guarantee whoever is in power will obey the laws.

The National Democratic Convention must advocate a program of struggle, the convention's program, a program that in its preelectoral stage will urge the exercise of the right to vote and ensure that this right will be exercised freely and democratically; it must advocate a program that in its electoral stage urges a vote against the state party system and a vote for the convention's program; it is a program that in its postelectoral stage

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will encourage a civil and peaceful mobilization to defend the people's resolve; it is a program that in its revolutionary stage will include a plan to fight for compliance with the convention agreements following the electoral process.

This is our voice that will speak at the National Democratic Convention; this is our thought. It is not our only thought, nor our only true thought. It can and must be challenged. We will accept it with respect and tolerance.

Democracy! Freedom! Justice!

[Issued] in the mountains of the Mexican southeast.

[Signed] Subcommander Marcos, of the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN.

Mexico, July 1994

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0208034694

[Editorial report] The following is a compilation of reports on Mexican economic developments monitored through 1 August.

The country's international reserves of foreign currency fell by at least $7.3 billion beginning the second quarter of 1994 and are currently estimated at $18 billion, according to specialized analyses by financial and stock market companies. It was also reported the decline in reserves totaled approximately $750 million the last two weeks. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 44)

The Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, Secofi, has reported foreign investments in Mexico totaled $7.3 billion between January and June of this year, 34.7 percent over the first semester in 1993. Secofi has reported foreign investments in the country totaled $48.7 billion during the current six-year administration, a figure which represents a 103.2 percent increase over the target of $24 billion established by the Salinas administration. Of the $7.3 billion in foreign investments, 50.3 percent—$3.5 billion—correspond to the service sector; 33.8 percent to manufacturing; 9.9 percent to commerce; 4.5 percent to construction; 1.1 percent to transportation and communication; and 0.4 percent to other sectors. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 4)

A group of American and European banks has given their endorsement to a Mexican business group. The banks granted a $600 million credit at competitive interest rates internationally in favor of the Alameda Group, which is comprised by Mexican, U.S. and European banks. A Bancomer manager has said this operation will be for the medium term. The bank official has said this act is a demonstration of confidence in Mexico. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 26 Jul 94)

Mexico's assembly plant industry for exports experienced a 0.8 percent growth rate last April, compared to the same month in 1993. The National Institute of Geography, Statistics, and Data Processing, INEGI, has reported 2,059 assembly plants were registered by April. INEGI added the assembly plant industry employs 568,530 workers. Regarding salaries and benefits, INEGI has stated the added value of salaries and benefits grew by 5.6 percent in real terms this year. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0651 GMT 26 Jul 94)

As a result of reduced levels of foreign investments in the country's interior, international reserves to pay for imports of merchandise has declined to only 3.7 percent, the lowest level since 1982. According to the Bank of Mexico, foreign investments shrank considerably the first months of the year due to the prevailing political instability. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO (ANALISIS Supplement) in Spanish 26 Jul 94 p A-3)

The federal government issued a decree on 25 July establishing the Program of Direct Support to the Countryside, Procampo, which will last 15 years. According to the decree published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, Procampo will transfer resources to farmers during that period. Procampo is slated to promote participation of social and private sectors in the countryside in order to improve internal and external competitiveness; it will also improve the standards of living for rural families and will modernize the trading system. (Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish 26 Jul 94 p 14)

The European Union, EU, financed 70 production projects in Mexico last year, totaling 11 million European Currency Units—about $35.2 million—which is 38 percent of the EU's funds to Latin America. Eduardo Lechuga, EU European Commission adviser in Mexico, has said the EU earmarked for Mexico 10 percent of its funds for developing countries. In statements at a seminar on economic cooperation, Lechuga said the EU exported $7.285 billion to Mexico in 1993. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0332 GMT 27 Jul 94)

The Bank of Mexico has announced Treasury Certificates, CETES, registered a reduction in yield rates this week, after three consecutive hikes. The bank reported the yield rate for 28-day CETES declined by 0.66 percent compared to last week, totaling 17 percent. The yield on Treasury Bonds in Mexican markets also dropped by 0.8 percent, setting the primary yield rate at 17.19 percent. Experts at Finamex Securities Corporation have concluded the drop in CETES rates three weeks before the elections is a positive sign. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0107 GMT 28 Jul 94)

Mexican Petroleum, Pemex, exported 1.3 million barrels per day—BPD—on average to customers on the American continent, Europe, and the Far East between January and May. Pemex, through PMI International Commerce, generated $2.5 billion in revenues for the country, an 18 percent reduction compared to the same period last year. During that period, Pemex marketed a

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daily average of 208,800 BPD of light petroleum—Istmo; 806,400 BPD of heavy petroleum—Maya; and 314,4900 BPD of extra light crude oil—Olmeca. Average sales prices of Mexican crude oils the first five months of the year are $14 per barrel of Istmo, 11.04 per barrel of Maya, and $15 dollars per barrel of Olmeca. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 27 Jul 94 p 48)

Pedro Noyola, foreign trade under secretary at the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat, has said the commercial deficit is compatible with the growth rates of the economy and the modernization needs of the production infrastructure at this time. He added the commercial deficit is being "fully financed by the capital account, namely domestic and foreign investment." The official explained 1,825 investment requests presented by foreign capital companies were processed during the first semester of 1994, and 1.25 million jobs were created. Most foreign investments came from the United States, with 60.2 percent; Canada, 0.5 percent; the EU, 29 percent; the Pacific Basin countries, 5.3 percent; other American nations, 4.2 percent; and the European Free Trade Association, 0.8 percent. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 18)

The Canada-Mexico commercial balance has favored Mexico by 818 million Canadian dollars during the first quarter of the year. Canadian Ambassador David J.S. Winfield has said both countries are taking advantage of NAFTA opportunities. The Canadian Embassy has disclosed bilateral trade for this period totaled 1.252 million Canadian dollars, a 31.2 percent increase, as compared to the same period last year. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 18)

Trade representatives in Geneva have warned Mexico will have to adopt retaliatory commercial measures against the United States to demand the elimination of taxes on cement dumping imposed on Mexican companies. Mexico will ask the United States for the fourth time since 1992 to lift the restriction based on the Cement Panel ruling confirming Mexico proved there is no dumping in its exports. Alejandro de la Pena, the Mexican envoy to GATT, will present before GATT's Antidumping Committee a request to the U.S. Government to eliminate Taxes 60.33 and 59.91 on Mexican cement and return taxes paid during the last two years. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 18)

A study conducted by Pemex Exploration and Production has revealed crude oil production in the north remains steady, while it has begun to decline in the southern part of the country. The study has revealed large investments are required in those areas to keep production at the current level, approximately 700,000 BPD. The study concluded the share of sea oil production is expected to increase, and exploration and exploitation costs will be more costly. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 60)

According to the consulting firms Cieme:-Wefa, the government will register a 29.5 billion pesos deficit for 1994, an amount equal to 2.4 percent of the gross national product. This imbalance will not exert upward pressure on inflation, but it represents a considerable increase in the government deficit, which totaled 0.2 percent of the GNP in 1992. The firm also disclosed figures indicating inflation by year's end could total 7.5 percent, a figure above the 5 percent government goal. Experts concluded the economy will grow by 1.2 percent during 1994. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 41)

As a result of a reduction in the risk-country perception, the cost of the public debt has fallen since 1990. The sovereign debt reduced the premium on U.S. Treasury Bonds from 550 points in 1990 to 120 points in 1994. On average, the paid coupon for Pemex, Bancomext, and Nafin bond issue declined by nearly 50 percent, according to the Banamex-Accival Financial Group. A study on foreign financing has revealed state-owned companies obtained $8.606 billion through 74 issue of bonds from 1989 until now. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Jul 94 p 18)

Market analysts reported on 28 July the increase in the prime rate between February and June, which went from 8.9 to 18 percent, represented an additional 500 million new pesos in internal debt servicing for the federal government. The total public debt is estimated at 120 billion new pesos, according to experts. The increase in domestic interest rates was caused by financial stability in Mexico and an increase in long-term yields in the United States. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 29 Jul 94 p 46)

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Guatemala

De Leon Says Tourism To Be Supported; No Support for Intervention in Haiti

PA0208221894 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "Channel 7 News"]

[Text] Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio has talked about the problem confronting the tourism industry in the country and has announced his direct support to overcome the dilemma:

[Begin De Leon recording] As of now, the president of the Republic will adopt, as an important policy, the policy to support and promote tourism in Guatemala. It is the government's responsibility to do its share to promote tourism. For example, we have already done something concerning infrastructure. We have inaugurated the road from Los Encuentros to Solola and will soon inaugurate the Solola-Panajachel stretch. This road will be nicely asphalted, but the upkeep of the road will have to be placed in the hands of a private company. Those who would like to use this road will have to pay a toll [preceding word in English], but I am certain no one will mind if they know the road will be maintained in the same condition it was the day it was inaugurated.

That measure is part of what we are doing. We are also going to privatize certain services and approve certain franchises. These measures are some of the things the government will do to help tourism in the country. [end recording]

President De Leon Carpio has also mentioned the Haitian issue, saying the government does not support a violent intervention to restore democracy in Haiti:

[Begin De Leon recording] Guatemala has its position, which has always been based on principles: that of nonintervention, because we believe conflicts should be resolved peacefully, and the principle of the law as established in Article 42 of the UN Charter.

We believe even though the resolution has been approved, we should continue to give the blockade and other sanctions more time to work and attain the goal we seek: that is, the return of democracy to Haiti. [end recording]

Workers Organization Expresses Solidarity With Haitians

PA0308034094 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 2 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] The Guatemalan Workers General Central Organization [CGTG] stated yesterday *the position adopted by the Latin American countries and other nations that are friends of Haiti, such as Venezuela, that have rejected a military invasion of Haiti has been worthy and categorical.*

CGTG Secretary General Jose Pinzon said dictatorships, impositions, and invasions, which are one in the same, must be rejected and condemned despite their source or justification. They have never been able to solve the problems, aspirations, and needs of the majorities. All we have to do is remember the 1954 invasion of our country, Pinzon said.

We express our solidarity with the Haitian people, especially with the members of the Central of Haitian Workers [CTH], in light of this new subjection to blood and fire, the reason why we are calling a general protest in solidarity with our Haitian brothers, said Pinzon.

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide must heed the position expressed a few days ago in Managua, where he reiterated his complete opposition to a foreign military intervention and the use of force.

Likewise, Pinzon added, we join the initiative of the CTH, which has been suggesting a broad national dialogue for some time now, to reach a basic agreement that will allow reestablishment of the Haitian people's process of democratization and national reconstruction.

Pinzon said he regrets the decision adopted by the UN Security Council and its lack of capability to rescue Haiti's democracy without resorting to the policy of boot rifle, and garrote.

In conclusion, the CGTG secretary general urges the Guatemalan Government, on behalf of the rescue of the Great Latin American Homeland's Bolivarian thought and action, to reject the UN's armed *solution.*

Military Participation in Elections Viewed

94CA0134A Guatemala City CRONICA in Spanish 17 Jun 94 pp 27-28

[Report by Maria Olga Pais and Silvio Gramajo: "Billeted in the Parties"]

[Excerpts] Judging by the dozen or so retired military officers who have recently crossed the threshold into the politics of partyism, it would appear that hunger and the proverbial omelette have chanced upon each other. At least five generals—aside from various retired colonels, majors, and lieutenants—have filed as candidates for the Chamber of Deputies in the forthcoming elections [scheduled for 14 August]. Moreover, three other former military officers have founded their own civic committees. Among them is Alejandro Gramajo, former defense minister, who has his sights trained on a run for the presidency.

Despite the sudden ardor for politics being displayed by former officers, military analysts dismiss the idea that the Armed Forces may have encouraged their former members to participate in the elections. These analysts point out that some of the names currently appearing on the political billboard—Efrain Rios Montt, Rodolfo Munoz Pilona, Oscar Mejia Victores, Gustavo Diaz

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Lopez—are those of survivors of the internal skirmishes of the past decade, who moreover rarely hew to a given policy line. The analysts deem that, aside from individual motivational reasons, the aims of this group of military professionals have found ready accommodation in the lack of leadership of the political organizations, and in the war cry of an electorate that, according to the public opinion polls, is clamoring for an iron hand at the helm to end the insecurity being felt by the citizenry.

Who and Where?

Unlike the 1970's, military participation in the political process is not limited to the MLN [National Liberation Movement], the PID [Democratic Institutional Party], or the CAN [Authentic Nationalist Center Party], three conservative parties whose birth stemmed from the military's anticommunist sentiment. In the present case, the retired officers are in the firing line and range widely over the political spectrum. Retired General Guillermo Arturo de la Cruz, for example, is a candidate for a parliamentary seat for the PAN [National Advancement Party] in Alta Verapaz. General Efrain Rios Montt heads the FRG [Guatemalan Republican Front]. Colonel Carlos Anibal Mendez and Major Byron Barrientos are also running as members of this same party. Lieutenant Otto Quinonez is a candidate in the MAS [Solidary Action Movement]. And running as members of the DC [Christian Democracy] are Hugo Moran and General Carlos Morales.

Mainly, it is the small parties that have gone all out to recruit military retirees for these legislative elections. General, and former de facto chief of the Army, Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores has been put forward as a candidate by the AP-5 [Popular Alliance-Five]-FUN [National Unity Front] coalition. The PR [Revolutionary Party] is carrying five former military officers on its list of candidates: General Benedicto Lucas, retired Colonels Julio Caballeros, Francisco Gordillo, and Ronald Sandoval, and Navy Captain Carlos Lazo. Running for Chamber of Deputies seats for the CAN are the former commander of the Guatemalan Air Force, Eduardo Wholers, and retired Colonel Julio Cesar Avila.

Like General Gramajo, Captain Rodolfo Munoz Pilona, one of the young officers who led the 1982 coup, has formed and registered his own political movement under the name National Stability Front [FEN]. And Major Gustavo Adolfo Diaz Lopez, who headed the May 1988 attempted coup, has formed the MPL [Patriotic Freedom Movement]. [passage omitted]

Favorable Climate

The explanations advanced for the current sociological turn of events are many and varied. According to political analyst Miguel Angel Balcarcel, the small parties are seeking to capitalize on the military image at a time when the climate of insecurity is the electorate's primary concern. "Emulating the leadership that Rios Montt has monopolized until now is their only lifeline," Balcarcel asserts. He indicates that the sociological climate among the population resembles that of the 1970 electoral campaign, when the MLN candidate was catapulted to power by the watchword "Arana Is Urgently Needed!"

Opinion polls, such as the one conducted by Generis Latina for CRONICA in May, find that 96 percent of those who supported Rios Montt did so for "his iron hand," indicating that in the minds of the voters security is the number one concern. "In Guatemala, imprisonment is identified with security," says Balcarcel. And General Gramajo asserts: "The public demands order and discipline. And that is what we retired military officers are offering to provide."

Parties such as the DC, however, are not seeking to bring military officers into their ranks simply because they represent security or an electoral asset. "I have always sought their concurrence in my platform, together with other sectors. We need to know how they think," says the DC's general secretary, Alfonso Cabrera. Hugo Moran, Julio Caballeros, and Jose Enrique Mendoza have collaborated with him since the 1990 electoral campaign, organizing the Retalhuleu, Escuintla, and Baja Verapaz affiliates respectively.

The military retirees believe that the reason underlying the currently heightened standing of their image in the minds of the voters is the lack of leadership in the parties: "Some politicians have defrauded the citizenry with their shortsighted and corrupt behavior. Others with their narrowly sectorial approaches," says Gramajo. The case made by Jose Luis Chea of UD [Democratic Union] is less flattering to former military officers: "The retired officers who are participating in the large political parties are pinch-hitters. Before offering their candidacies to the parties, they had offered them to the private sector and the popular leaders; and their proposals were turned down," says Jose Luis Chea.

Sociological reasons also underlie the glut of military retirees on the electoral market. The 1985 revisions of the basic military law changed the rate of internal advancement within the Armed Forces. At the same time, the maximum duration of service was reduced to 30 years. And the rigor with which this provision was applied terminated the services of a batch of officers before their 50th birthday. "Politics is the only field toward which we can channel the experience we acquired in the management of the affairs of state," says Gramajo.

The coup-inspired movements of the past 15 years contributed to a speeding up of the Army's internal crackdown. This produced a bevy of jobless coup-minded officers who had not yet reached their 50th birthday. One military analyst dismisses political opportunism as a motivating factor among the military retirees. He attributes their motivation to an intent to capture political positions from which they can get back at the officials who bounced them from the game. "Judging by the coup-oriented trajectories of Munoz Pilona, Mejia Victores, and Diaz Lopez, accounts have

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not been settled yet. This is why all of those factions are represented now on the parties' lists of candidates," asserts our military source. Mejia Victores, on the other hand, dismisses revenge as the motive underlying his participation. He contradicts himself, however, when he asserts that "they came looking for me to pit me against Rios Montt. But, of course, I do want to press my proposed government platform."

Through Other Eyes

In general, the top-echelon military officials applaud the participation of the retired officers in the legislative electoral race. But to speak of a professional military man as a presidential candidate is quite a different matter. "In the aftermath of the military conflict, the country is not ready for it. Nor is the Army," says Christian Democrat Cabrera. He asserts that a military candidacy would only lead to splits within the Army, because electoral leanings tend to define the discrete groups within an Armed Forces configuration whose granitic unity is but a theoretical and formal presumption.

What is certain is that the officers on active duty have not taken a back seat. Some members of the top military echelon, it seems, have made overtures to the PAN. "It is only natural for them to seek to consolidate their ideological line, which predominates in the Army. To this end, the PAN is their most viable option: It has an electoral constituency, private sector support, and international esteem," says Balcarcel. Other analysts, however, see less-strategic interests in the actions of the top-echelon officers. "The class of 1973 is probably seeking to ensure its own survival in the command structure," he says. The presidential chief of staff, Otto Perez Molina, class of 1973, asserts that "The Army cannot take a partisan stance in support of a particular party." But he, as well as other military sources, acknowledges the "personal sympathies of some top-echelon officers, as individuals, for the PAN." The PAN's Arabella Castro, for her part, denies any possibility of the PAN participating in a plan preconceived by the Army. "This does not mean that we are an antimilitarist party," she adds.

The politicians are obviously not rejecting out of hand the participation of retired military officers in their ranks. And they are thus confirming that this trend is here to stay. Military sources assert that a Defense Ministry move is afoot aimed at a further reduction of the maximum length of service from 30 years to 25. Possibly foreseeing this trend, a generation of military officers is already pursuing studies in political science, economics, and other disciplines, in the country's universities. Clearly, the military retirees who have dusted off their lapels to embark on a political career will not be the only ones, in the future, to have relegated their epaulets and caps to the closet.

Honduras

Foreign Minister: Troops To Participate in Haiti

PA0208155994 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Roberto Reyes Pineda from "The Morning Paper" newscast]

[Text] Honduran Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz has confirmed that Honduras is ready to send its military forces to participate in the intervention in Haiti approved by the United Nations. The official said the government is awaiting the UN's summons, at which time it will learn what has been assigned to Honduran soldiers in this action.

[Begin Paz recording] Our country has taken note of Security Council Resolution 940 authorizing the organization of a multinational force that will use any means, including military force, to reinstate Haitian Constitutional President Jean Bertrand Aristide. [end recording]

The official indicated that the number of Honduran soldiers who will be sent to the island has still not been established.

[Begin Paz recording] The United Nations has set a maximum of 6,000 soldiers. The way in which they will be deployed will be established in the coming hours. [end recording]

The Security Council will define Honduras' cooperation with this action.

[Begin Paz recording] I must tell you that the date and time of the operation were not established in the Security Council's resolution. This decision is in the hands of those who manage the Security Council. This gives them some room to maneuver and to negotiate with the military council that controls Haiti. [end recording]

We asked the foreign minister to clarify the issue of whether Honduras is ready to intervene as soon as the UN's call is received.

[Begin Paz recording] [Words indistinct] now, what has happened is that the Security Council has given UN members the mandate to establish a multinational force. Thus, the long-awaited and much-advertised invasion has not actually occurred. Instead, an operation that conforms to the UN Charter will be carried out. [end recording]

Only Argentina in South America and Honduras in Central America have confirmed their participation in this action.

[Begin Paz recording] As of now, only the Argentine Government has adopted a favorable position. Honduras has stated in principle that it will participate. [end recording]

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On another issue, the foreign minister reported that the pressure of Haitian refugees has decreased greatly, according to reports received from Washington. He said that Honduras will probably not have to accept any Haitians.

[Begin Paz recording] I must tell you that the pressure of the refugees has decreased. Reports from our embassy in Washington and from New York indicate that the flow of refugees is decreasing; consequently, we could say that the need has also decreased. We believe that perhaps there will be no need to accept Haitian refugees in our country. But this is still being debated. [end recording]

The Honduran Armed Forces agrees completely with the government's decision in this respect, said the foreign minister.

[Begin Paz recording] We are in direct, smooth, and constant communication with them because these are issues where the participation of our country's armed institution is obviously of great importance. [end recording]

Discua: Only Peacekeeping Force Will Go to Haiti

PA0208162294 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1045 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir by unidentified reporter; from "The Morning Paper" newscast—live]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Following remarks by Foreign Minister Alberto Paz Aguilar, who said that Honduras is ready to go to Haiti, here is the opinion of Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir. Good morning, Gen. Discua Elvir.

[Discua Elvir] Good morning, Honduran people. The foreign minister informed me of our commitment—a commitment that all countries in this area and others have made to send troops to Haiti. The contingent is getting ready to go as a peacekeeping force once the leaders who violated constitutional order in Haiti leave. Multinational troops will be there as a peacekeeping force to maintain order and restore the nation's constitutional order.

[Reporter] How many soldiers will participate?

[Discua Elvir] We do not have precise information yet because not much is being demanded from us since we are a small armed force. Other countries will participate with more people. Our participation will be minimal in order to keep our commitment to the United Nations.

[Reporter] The Honduran people do not have a clear understanding of the participation of Honduran soldiers in the invasion of Haiti.

[Discua Elvir] It will be a peacekeeping force to maintain order and restore the nation's constitutional order. The president has been clear. The foreign minister has also been clear. I do not think I have anything to add. The Armed Forces will follow orders in accordance with any international commitment made by Honduras.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the UN decision?

[Discua Elvir] It is an international organization. A series of countries comprise it; Honduras is one of them. Commitments were made within agreements that we signed. Honduras made these commitments as a member country; consequently, we are fulfilling a duty. We are abiding by a UN Security Council decision on Haiti.

[Reporter] You talked about Swan Island. You said it is a marine park. Now there is talk that Haitian refugees will be sent to Gracias a Dios. Do you think that place is better?

[Discua Elvir] This decision is up to the president, who is in charge of foreign policy. We have no comment because it is a decision by the official in charge of foreign policy, who is also the Armed Forces commander in chief. He has the power to make any decision.

[Reporter] Have you discussed Honduran participation in the Haitian problem with President Reina?

[Discua Elvir] We have discussed it several times. He issued clear instructions, as I told you. In the first place, Honduras will not participate in a military invasion or an operation that would endanger the lives of Honduran soldiers. These soldiers will participate as a peacekeeping force, as I just explained. The president has been very clear and has spelled out the extent of Honduran participation. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

No Government Support for Invasion of Haiti; Studying Peacekeeping Force

PA0308020294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0048 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Managua, 2 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua reiterated today it does not support a military invasion of Haiti as a means to resolve the political crisis in that Caribbean nation, but it is studying the possibility of sending a peacekeeping force to Haiti.

During a brief news conference, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said "we believe the diplomatic channels and civilian measures adopted against the coupist soldiers and the Haitian de facto government have not yet been exhausted."

According to Leal, the Nicaraguan Government believes it is necessary to wait for the result of the implementation of these diplomatic and civilian measures, and, therefore, it will continue to request before international

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organizations they wait "a prudent amount of time" to see the results of these peaceful measures.

"Nicaragua opposes the UN resolution, which calls for the deployment of troops to expel the coupists, and it will continue to encourage the return of democracy to Haiti by peaceful means," said the head of Nicaragua's Foreign Ministry.

"I do not see why Nicaragua's relations with the United States should be hindered, because our country does not support the use of force as a resolution to the Haitian conflict," Leal said after admitting the UN resolution was approved at the initiative of the United States.

"We maintain friendly relations and observe mutual respect with the United States. The United States respects the sovereign decisions of the Nicaraguan Government," Leal said.

Regarding the second phase of the UN resolution, which calls for the use of another multinational peacekeeping force that would be responsible for maintaining peace following the eventual withdrawal of the coupists from Haiti, Leal said: "The Presidency and the Army are discussing this matter."

"We are studying the possibility of Nicaragua participating in the second phase of the UN plan," Leal added.

Meanwhile, Leal refrained from commenting on the number of soldiers Nicaragua would send to Haiti as part of a peacekeeping force, because "I would just be making up the number."

U.S. Policy Said Supporting Sandinists, Corruption

94CA0135A Managua LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 28 Jun 94 p 10A

[Commentary by Alejandro Bolanos Davis]

[Text] The United States and the countries giving assistance to Nicaragua have provided more than $2 billion in aid in less than four years, and in return a new autocratic militarism has grown stronger, production has stagnated, and extreme poverty has risen. There has been a great deal of financial aid and no socioeconomic development.

If the U.S. State Department desires the welfare of the Nicaraguan people, then it needs to change its policy toward Nicaragua.

Instead of promoting democracy, respect for human rights, and control of the military by civilian authority, the present State Department policy averts its eyes in order not to see human rights violations and corruption; it is insensitive toward poverty, and seems to be supporting a new and oppressive form of militarism.

The State Department is financing a highly unjust "national Sandinization." This Sandinization injures and impoverishes the people who have to finance "pinatas" [property transfers to Sandinists] and who suffer the continued violations of their rights by the government and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

Because of this, Nicaragua is now experiencing a tremendous political, economic, and military crisis. The consequences of this shameful State Department policy toward Nicaragua have produced:

1)The institutionalization of government corruption;

2)The consolidation of the autocratic militarism of the Ortega-Lacayo duo; and

3)The systematic violation of human and property rights by the Nicaraguan Government.

There is now strong antagonism between the major political and social groups in Nicaragua, which is so severe that it has produced a sort of national paralysis.

Nicaragua's situation cannot be solved by donor countries giving more money to Violeta de Chamorro's Sandinist government. Nor can the property problem be solved by giving devalued bonds to the legitimate owners while the criminals remain securely entrenched with other people's property.

Nicaragua's situation will be resolved when we Nicaraguans agree to live under a rule of law based on correct principles of integrity and justice.

I am sure the donor countries would not want the immoral measures taken by Violeta de Chamorro's government under Jimmy Carter's guidance for themselves. What Mr. Carter has proposed, in addition to being totally immoral (as it rewards the criminal), also insults our national dignity, as he said that he came to solve our property problem.

Only somebody like Jimmy Carter can say he is very pleased with what has happened here in the last four years. That is the height of cynicism. After all, he is the patron of the Sandinists, and he came at the invitation of his protege, Daniel Ortega, and of Violeta de Chamorro to praise the nonsense in which he shares.

The consequence of this blind policy of the U.S. State Department and of the other countries cooperating with Violeta de Chamorro's government is that no serious investor with a grain of sense will dare to invest a cent in Nicaragua.

Continuing to support Violeta de Chamorro's government and its immoral policy that violates human rights is condemning Nicaragua to instability, disinvestment, and worse problems in the future.

If the State Department and the cooperating countries really want to help Nicaragua, they should support actions to solve the property problem correctly without rewarding criminals, and actions that will lead to the establishment of a truly civilian state of law that will inspire confidence and promote investment in Nicaragua.

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Panama

President Announces Support for UN Resolution on Haiti

PA0208143594 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Aug 94 p 1A

[Excerpt] (From international dispatches and LA PRENSA)—President Guillermo Endara announced yesterday that Panama supports the UN Security Council resolution approving U.S. military intervention in Haiti to remove the coupist military leaders and guarantee the return to power of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"Panama understands the Haitians' situation because we went through the same situation ourselves, and I wish we had been offered the opportunities afforded to General Raoul Cedras," Endara said.

The resolution does not stipulate the date for eventual deployment of said forces, whose soldiers will be basically U.S. citizens and which will be commanded and financed by the United States with the probable symbolic participation of another country. The resolution does not set a date for Aristide's return to power either.

President Endara indicated that Cedras should have left Haiti a long time ago, considering all the opportunities the United Nations has given him to surrender power without reprisals.

According to Endara, if the OAS had done in Panama what the United Nations did in Haiti, Panamanians would not have bitter memories of an invasion that plunged many families into mourning.

He reiterated that Cedras has had "fabulous" opportunities to surrender power in order to prevent an invasion. [passage omitted]

Authorities Release Arab Detained for Aircraft Explosion

PA0208151594 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 2 Aug 94 p 45

[Report by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] One of the three Arabs linked to the attack on the HP-1202 plane in which 21 people were killed on 19 July was released yesterday. The other two may also be released "because there is no logical connection between their movements and the accident."

A source close to the investigation said Jordanian Motan Mohamad Taha and Israelis Shawar Midian Fadel and Lomad Ahmad "reportedly did not" participate in the attack on the Alas Airlines plane, which blew up over Santa Rita Hill in Colon.

Panamanian immigration authorities in Paso Canoas arrested the three Arabs last week because their documents and passports were not in order and because they raised suspicions while trying to leave the country.

The source did not reveal the name of the foreigner who was released but said the other two Arabs could be turned over to the Immigration Department for violating immigration regulations. In the days prior to the attack, businessmen in the Colon Free Zone saw the Arabs mysteriously roaming around inside the Zone's installations and asking for work at local businesses.

The group of investigators, including Assistant Prosecutor Carlos Augusto Herrera, traveled to the Caribbean coast yesterday, where they conducted a series of investigations in hotels, pensions, car rental agencies, and certain Colon Free Zone shops, the source said.

Likewise, investigators and the 14 foreign experts tested and analyzed the plane's remains in a Colon hangar. It is possible that they will reach new conclusions within the next few hours.

The composite sketch of the alleged suicide of Lebanese Lya Jamal, published by all of the country's media, "has not produced any more information for the authorities." No one has yet claimed his body.

Panamanian authorities are also waiting for information from the International Police (Interpol) in order to tie up a few loose ends about the alleged suicide passenger.

Martin Torrijos Appointed Deputy Justice Minister

PA0108023594 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Arnulfo Barroso Watson and Julio Carles]

[Text] Within the framework of events commemorating the 13th anniversary of the death of General Omar Torrijos Herrera yesterday in Penonome, President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares announced the appointment of Martin Torrijos, son of the deceased soldier, as deputy government and justice minister.

The event began early yesterday morning in Penonome and was attended by Perez Balladares and leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]. Following the ceremony, the president-elect traveled to Chiriqui Province, where he will meet today with members of his future government.

Yesterday at the Bambito Hotel, Perez Balladares and his ministers-designate met with members of the UN Development Program to discuss projects the incoming government is interested in developing and which could be supported by the United Nations. The meeting participants also discussed social programs to be conducted by the first lady's office.

Today the president-elect and his government team will meet with legislators-elect, mayors-elect, and representatives-elect to discuss the government plan, especially the government's economic plan.

Planning Minister-designate Guillermo Chapman will give a detailed explanation of the organization of the incoming government.

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Argentina

Interior Minister Ruckauf Interviewed on AMIA Bombing

PY0208223494 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 31 Jul 94 p 4

[Interview with Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf by Fernando Cibeira—place and date not given]

[Text] [Cibeira] Why did you go to the United States after the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombing?

[Ruckauf] I went to the U.S. State Department to collect and exchange information. I was given folders with data on how terrorism networks operate worldwide, what countries are involved, and the key points in Latin America.

[Cibeira] Do the people in the United States believe security failed in Buenos Aires?

[Ruckauf] No. They believe it is not possible to prevent an attack in which the perpetrator is prepared to die. Even by installing security mechanisms, which exist at some key embassies in the United States, it is not possible to stop a car bomb containing 300 to 500 kg of explosives. It may be possible to alter the level of damage, but it is not possible to stop the attack.

[Cibeira] In other words, better intelligence work to prevent the attack was missing?

[Ruckauf] The investigation that we are currently conducting demonstrates the compartmentalization of the group involved in the attack. The events that took place until the van was parked in the parking lot have been clearly established. The van was removed from the parking lot later for the attack. In other words, all the preparatory moves are clear and all the people involved may be identified, but it is impossible to learn what happened after the van was loaded with explosives. The compartmentalized operation of these groups means that while one member purchased various elements, the other members were aware they are involved in a crime but were unaware of the type of crime. In a country like Israel, which is forever at war, the purchase of explosives and a van and the people involved would have been suspicious and would have been reported to the police. Our people are not prone to cooperating with the police.

[Cibeira] In a nutshell, do you believe the government did not fail?

[Ruckauf] I believe there is a trend toward blaming the government for failures linked to protecting some objectives. I could turn the question around. How may objectives, how many Jewish synagogues and schools must be protected today—not before the attack? How many people must be involved and for how long? What mechanism must be used to prevent an attack that has been masterminded abroad, supported internationally, and follows a logic that is absolutely different to ours? This logic involves being willing to die because they believe that by killing the enemy they serve Allah.

[Cibeira] Has any progress been achieved in the investigation as some government officials have euphorically claimed?

[Ruckauf] The police believe huge progress has been achieved in the investigation. It is quite another thing to prove it legally as suspects, for example, can refuse to testify. Argentina cannot act like Israel, which determines who are politically guilty and then bombs them.

[Cibeira] Did the bombing damage the government's image?

[Ruckauf] No. It only created fear where the explosion occurred. The polls indicate that the government's image has not been effected by the bombing. Nevertheless, the best way the government can improve its image is by progressing with the investigation.

[Cibeira] There were two resignations, involving the police chief and the security under secretary ...

[Ruckauf] Security Under Secretary Hugo Franco resigned to make room for Brigadier Andres Antonietti, the new secretary. We are no longer responsible for security because Antonietti reports directly to the president. As far as the police chief is concerned, it was my decision made following the resignation tendered by Superintendent General Jorge Passero. I appointed Superintendent Adrian Pelacchi to replace him. I had been considering Pelacchi for a long time. He is a very honest and experienced man.

[Cibeira] And are these resignations enough to wash the government's hands?

[Ruckauf] The issue of "washing the hands" is linked to the government's alleged guilt over a conflict between Israel and the Hizballah in our territory. Argentina, not Israel, was attacked here. Self-criticism, for all those responsible, follows the fact that we believed we were not involved in a conflict. We believed we were an isolated land of peace.

[Cibeira] Have you considered resigning?

[Ruckauf] I have never been attached to the tasks entrusted to me. The president confirmed he trusts me and confirmed me in my current post. I feel comfortable in the cabinet.

[Cibeira] Do you believe it will ever be possible to determine who was involved in the bombing?

[Ruckauf] In most attacks of this type, the people responsible are not identified. Particularly in this case the main perpetrator was killed by the explosion. This has been proved because human remains were discovered near the van's motor.

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Argentine Connection in AMIA Bombing 'Practically Dismantled'

PY0208181794 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 31 Jul 94 p 21

[Article by Gustavo Carabajal]

[Text] The Argentine connection that participated in the attack against the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] has been practically dismantled. This was confirmed for LA NACION by a reliable source linked to the investigation into the tragic incident that occurred on 18 July, in which the building at 633 Pasteur Street was demolished.

It has been confirmed that three commissions, comprising members of the intelligence departments of the security services, have travelled to three neighboring countries to seek the financial or logistical contacts among the Shi'ite communities. Two arrests have been made in Paraguay, more precisely in Ciudad del Este.

It has been leaked that another delegation will depart for the Middle East within the next few days.

Several operations were carried out last night in the Federal Capital and greater Buenos Aires area seeking to capture the two intermediaries who received money from the foreign terrorists to obtain the van used in the attack and to carry out intelligence, selection, and surveillance.

"They did everything for money. No one told them why they had to check out the AMIA or purchase the van. They never imagined all the data they collected could be used for a successful attack on the AMIA," another reliable source said.

On the afternoon of 30 July, Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano questioned the eight suspects regarding their alleged links with the attack. Court sources have said that by 3 August it will be decided if they will be brought to trial or released.

Following the arrest of eight members of the Argentine connection, who are presumed to be indirectly linked to the attack, the investigators concluded that the terrorists did not work with professionals.

The perpetrators of the attack presumably resorted to local intermediaries with long criminal records because they suspected that those with the infrastructure to carry out a neat job and not leave any evidence were being watched by the foreign intelligence services that operate in Argentina, such as the Mosad.

The first clue that led to arrests and the identification of suspects was the white, short-wheelbased Renault Traffic van—which was modified to carry the 200 kg of ammonal to 633 Pasteur Street. They did not choose a "clean" car; on the contrary, they used a car with a fake license plate—a twin or double as it is known in underworld jargon—so as to leave many loose ends.

Intelligence services have not yet been able to capture either the terrorist who assembled the explosive device that was placed in the Renault van or the two Argentine middlemen, one of whom allegedly bought the van from Carlos Alberto Telledin under the false name of Ramon Martinez.

The Argentine middlemen were allegedly hired by officials from the Iranian or Syrian Embassies, where, according to confidential reports, groups that provide support for fundamentalist Muslims operate under the guise of a cultural attache.

The eight persons being held were members of the Argentine connection, which comprised two wings. The group charged with obtaining the van is allegedly led by Telledin, who used to work with the mechanic who owned the body shop raided in San Martin, where the van may have been prepared.

A reliable source reported that Martinez—who according to neighbors was always accompanied by bodyguards—allegedly ordered the van, which had caught fire, from Telledin on 1 July. He said he needed it urgently.

One of the investigators reported that "the mechanics fixed the van so that it would not last long. They took advantage of the situation and fitted a nearly seized, stolen engine."

By contrast, the group that did the intelligence work and monitored the target—including a couple—acted with the conviction that it was planning an attack on the AMIA headquarters.

The case Judge Juan Jose Galeano is hearing includes a deposition by an AMIA employee who said she noticed a Fiat Fiorino station wagon with two occupants parked outside the AMIA building over several days.

Thirteen days have elapsed since the bombing that claimed the lives of 82 people. The probe into the attack has three leads—Iran, Syria, and Lebanon. There is one common denominator; Hizballah (Party of God).

Hizballah, which has three operational bases in Lebanon—to the south of Beirut, in Sidon, and in the Bekaa Valley—reportedly receives funds for its terrorist activities from the Iranian Embassy in Damascus.

'Suspicious' Purse Found, Destroyed at Buenos Aires Airport

PY0208221694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2108 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (NA)—Members of the Air Force Police this afternoon exploded a suspicious device that had been found in a bathroom at Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport.

Major Nestor Padilla, chief of the Air Force Police Squadron, reported that the package was hidden in a

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purse found in the ladies' bathroom in the Austral Airlines Hall. The Air Force Police, who were alerted at approximately 1500 about the purse abandoned in the bathroom, then proceeded to evacuate the place. Police withdrew the suspicious purse from the bathroom and transferred it to an open space on airport grounds. Members of the Explosives Squadron then proceeded to explode the device in the northern sector of the airport. Police sources indicated that the package contained clock parts, cables, and batteries, but no explosives. The sources believe that the package was left in the bathroom with the sole purpose of causing alarm.

Activities in the sector returned to normal just before 1600.

UCR Presidential Candidate De La Rua Interviewed

94SM0426B Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Jul 94 p 15

[Interview with Senator Fernando de la Rua by Maria Laura Avignolo, in London, date not given: "De la Rua Wants a 'Vigorous Opposition'"]

[Text] London (Special to CLARIN)—Senator Fernando de la Rua wants to be UCR [Radical Civic Union] presidential candidate. He believes his party must go to the next elections [in 1995] without alliances with fronts, but deems "a government of consensus to be indispensable."

During his one week visit in Great Britain, Senator De la Rua accorded an interview to CLARIN and refused to delve into the subject of the Radicals' favorite sport: Internal debate.

[Avignolo] Who is the UCR presidential candidate for 1995?

[De la Rua] I want to be that candidate. We will determine the changes that need to be made. The party must resume its policy of opposition and recover its lost ground. I hope that the constituent assembly in Santa Fe ends soon, that it does what has to be done, and that it puts an end to the current situation, which confuses individual party lines. The party must get going on the road to winning and recovering the people's trust.

[Avignolo] And who will be your running mate?

[De la Rua] This has yet to be seen. We must define the plan and hold open debates internally. It also remains to be seen whether our ticket will be a negotiated one as it has been until now, or whether the presidential candidate will designate his running mate.

[Avignolo] Will the candidate not be chosen by consensus?

[De la Rua] Consensus must stem from public opinion. If it clearly does so, then a consensus candidate is possible. Otherwise, the question will be decided by the members.

[Avignolo] Will Angeloz end up again being the candidate instead of you?

[De la Rua] That is what is expected, but it still has to materialize. I prefer not to talk about internal problems because they will certainly be resolved in due course. Today, the urgent issues are to be found in the streets, because of the forgotten social problems, the crisis of regional economies, the loss of faith and trust because of corruption. The voters have tolerated this situation for the sake of stability, but it must be brought to an end.

[Avignolo] Do you believe in the "transversal party," an alliance with Bordon and "Chaco" Alvarez?

[De la Rua] I do not understand this kind of geometry. Institutions must be given priority over individuals, and the parties must be preserved as complete entities. UCR has to strengthen itself, make its own decisions. That does not exclude reaching a future agreement on common ground with other parties.

[Avignolo] Could UCR, entirely alone, beat "Menemism?"

[De la Rua] It can proceed with its own ticket and enter into agreements with other groups in order to govern. We are the only structured party that is not simply an adventure.

[Avignolo] Do you not believe that the UCR must undergo a generational renewal in order to rebound?

[De la Rua] Everyone wants to carve up the generation where it suits him best. This is a miserable joke. Here, everybody is needed. Carving up the Argentine society generationally means not recognizing its cohesion. Those who are useful must continue to be.

[Avignolo] Would you accept Storani's candidacy or would you invite him to share your ticket?

[De la Rua] Not his candidacy, since I am a candidate myself. As to the ticket, It has yet to be decided. I am not even aware that he has declared his candidacy. Each of us has to look to public opinion to see where we stand. We have all suffered the effects of 10 April, even those of us who tenaciously opposed the pact.

[Avignolo] Are you proposing Alfonsin's resignation from the party after the constituent assembly?

[De la Rua] Yes, I have asked for it many times. Each of us needs to know our responsibilities and how best to serve not our individual aims but those of the party, which has to show society it can change.

[Avignolo] Do you consider the Frente Grande [Great Front] a threat?

[De la Rua] On 10 April it took away many of UCR's voters. It generated an expectation, but no one knows what kind of party it is, what its statement is, whether it is an image, a person, or even a coherent idea. It stems from Peronism. It is an alliance of convenience with

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other sectors. That is why it is necessary to know whether it will be a structure with a direction, with ideas, and responsibilities, or merely the expression of a protest by a society that wants an energetically conducted opposition. Let us Radicals do the job, and the people will go with us, above all when the government has proven itself to be disaster.

[Box, p 15]:

Golf Caps and Compact Discs

London—The Argentine government's foreign policy on the Falkland Islands is concessive. It shows weakness in the face of Great Britain's proposals. Nonetheless, we must promote good relations," said Fernando de la Rua during his eight-day visit here, during which he talked with the British deputy minister of foreign affairs and with deputies of the governing Conservative Party.

De la Rua had a loaded agenda, but he nevertheless found time to buy golf caps and compact discs of Sherlock Holmes books to practice his English.

Commentary Views Political Events

94SM0425A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Jul 94 p 16

[Commentary by Eduardo van der Kooy: "Like an Ostrich"]

[Text] During the month of June alone there were more than 20 conflicts in 11 provinces. They ranged from a second demand by producers in Mendoza—which cannot be accused of faulty administration—to the protest by state employees in Jujuy and Catamarca.

Almost 900 conflicts are estimated to have taken place between January and June of this year, according to labor sociologist Julio Godio, amounting to 75 percent of the 1993 total of 1,200 conflicts.

Toward the end of May the government was compelled to face its severest challenge to date, that combined almost all the problems of the current economic situation, in Ushuaia: a demand for higher wages combined with a drop in employment in an industrial sector that is the mainstay of the Convertibility Plan—the soft goods sector—and with symptoms now of a crisis stemming from the indiscriminate opening of the economy.

Last Monday, the UOM [Metallurgical Workers Union], a government ally, carried out its biggest street demonstration to date during this administration's five-year term. And in an automotive plant—another pillar of the administration's economic program—Domingo Cavallo, especially, and President Menem had to listen as the applause was drowned out by the workers' boos and hissing.

On Wednesday, the heterogeneous and spirited Federal March filled the Plaza de Mayo with social complaints. The description does not provide a full-length picture of today's Argentina. The complete picture reveals other things as well that help to explain the striking level of consensus enjoyed by Carlos Menem in his fifth year in power.

June's 0.4-percent inflation rate, for example, limited the rise in the cost of living during the first semester to barely 1.2 percent. Over the past 12 months, prices have risen approximately 3 percent, an average less than that of Chile, Latin America's most consolidated model.

Seemingly hypnotized by but a fragment of reality, however—namely, stability—the government authorities appear bent on refusing to accept the fact that the restrictions of the economic plan have accentuated the deterioration of many of the country's productive structures and are fostering the growth of a social deadweight.

Menem and his officials are indulging in a reissue of the power syndrome, as Raul Alfonsin had previously done, preferring to bury their head in the sand when they sense the approach of a danger, and attaching themselves securely to the most pleasing likeness of the reality.

In addition, every opposing statement is invalidated to such an extent that doubts frequently arise as to the authenticity of the democratic fabric of the men who occupy the Casa Rosada.

Menem tried to inject a touch of humor by invoking one of Winston Churchill's witticisms: "Never did so many rally so few," he boasted in an effort to downplay a demonstration that in its plurality—ranging from left to right—truly reflected one of the trends that it would be advisable not to ignore.

The president also drew a dubious and imprudent parallel with the situation in Brazil ("How many demonstrations should be held over there where unemployment is on a vast scale?" he asked smilingly), touching off the second diplomatic incident in less than a month with Argentina's principal neighbor.

Cavallo lashed out obsessively again against the press, berating it for reporting in a different way than the minister would like, and Guido Di Tella again won the distinction of being labeled a loose-tonged chatterbox. He argued vehemently that the Federal March was insignificant to the extent that it failed to draw so much as an instant's attention abroad.

The foreign minister is probably accurate—and it is to be hoped that he is—when he expresses his views on specific issues. But the NEW YORK TIMES, on its third page, reported and published a photograph of the Federal March in Argentina. Almost the entire Spanish press reported on the meeting, and the scenes of the March definitely filled the TV screens in Spain as well as in Italy and Brazil.

The government's staunch public reaction perhaps conceals in the subconscious some of the political concerns that have begun to show as the presidential reelection effort nears its goal.

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If the Federal March indeed ended in indifference—as the government has proclaimed—the natural and compelling question seemed to be: Why then reply with the staging of a concentration in the Plaza on 17 October?

"I alone can move 50,000 persons," Duhalde promised on that same Wednesday night displaying an optimism that was not shared by all members of the government.

Even the governor himself seemed regretful 24 hours later when a decision by the Provincial Supreme Court—which ratified the opposition's stance requiring a 50-percent-plus-one majority of the total membership, and not of those present, for validation of the reelection in the Buenos Aires Constituent Assembly—compelled him to threaten to convoke a plebiscite that still seems to be tied to Antonio Cafiero's unsuccessful attempt in 1990.

Only in private, and even then reluctantly, did the Menem government admit to having gleaned some lateral words to the wise from the Federal March. It appeared abundantly clear on Wednesday that the public was far more attracted by the opposition's social and labor organizations than by the political parties.

The UCR [Radical Civic Union] having lost color since the signing of the Olivos pact, its case did not attract much attention. The most striking fact was that the growth exhibited by the Frente Grande [Great Front] in the April elections was not reflected proportionally by the number of its members present in the Plaza de Mayo.

Perhaps Alvarez is beginning to come to grips with the problems inherent in political growth. In order to orient his future steps, he will have to gauge with utmost accuracy just how much of his current stature is owing to the influx of the coalition and how much to other fringes at odds with society but reluctant to identify with expressions of the Federal March type.

In its approach to 17 October, the government is counting on the practical contribution the unions of the frayed CGT [General Confederation of Labor] could make, but it cannot guarantee at this point in time the dynamic of the party and of the governors who may line up with the central government.

Moreover: Among the Peronists and with encouragement from several provincial governors, debate has broken out on the need to free Cavallo's plan from its anchorage solely to stability and have it generate expectations of economic development for the electoral campaign, which is already under way.

The voices having the final say will be those of Ruben Marin, of La Pampa, Mario Moine, of Entre Rios, and Nestor Kirchner, of Santa Cruz. They took advantage of the Constituent Assembly scenario in Santa Fe to impart to the debate on the economic plan a dimension that is now much reduced.

Cavallo did not seem to resist for very long, and his gestures served to dispel the drowsiness that had come over the Cabinet's internal debates since the May scandal, when the minister opposed the others head-on against the idea of creating an under secretariat for security.

Cavallo felt that he was in the eye of the storm surrounding the Federal March, and that—willingly or not—members of the government had collaborated in amplifying its sounds. He deemed the security measures that surrounded the activities in Buenos Aires to have been excessive, but took no cognizance of the fact that the possibility of incidents had been discussed and passed on by the central government itself.

The target of his ill humor was Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, with whom he had already locked horns again the previous week, before the senators, on the issue of administrative control of security.

Cavallo also had repeated run-ins with the general secretary of the Presidency, Eduardo Bauza. Like any mortal in Argentina, the minister foresees a restructuring of the Cabinet with the ending of the Constituent Assembly.

Bauza is designing a strategy aimed at incorporating a governor in the team of ministers, as a means of attenuating that critical and spontaneous sector that seems to be lighting from within the fires of opposition to the policies of the Casa Rosada and the Ministry of Finance.

Cavallo, on the other hand, is preferring to keep as his own the names of his innermost circle, whom he considers ideal to fill the vacancies Menem will create to cover the stretch until the 1995 elections. One is Juan Jose Llach, whom the president had already tempted once with the Ministry of Education, and the other is Juan Schiaretti, government auditor in Santiago del Estero.

Probably neither Bauza nor Cavallo know that the future could unite them in misfortune. Raul Granillo Ocampo, adversary of both, could end up in the Defense Ministry, and Oscar Camillon could return to the diplomatic corps as Argentine ambassador in Washington.

Bauza has also run up against Cavallo's ambition to produce a landing on Mendoza—through Juan Carlos Mazzon—to storm the fort built there some time ago by Senator Jose Octavio Bordon.

Not that Bauza does not want to erase the ex-governor from the political map. But he considers himself a bull in his own corral. He figures that with the help of the faithful to Jose Luis Manzano and a few foreseeable defections in provincial governing circles he can begin invading Bordonista territory without conceding leadership to Cavallo.

The virulence of the primary governmental hierarchies against the increasing political distance Bordon is taking from them had a strange sound. All in the same week, the president, Bauza, and Cavallo fired salvos at him.

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No one can assume that the senator's alleged defection involves a significant structural loss and loss of votes for the government. But it could mean a change just months away from election time, and the first signs of a rebellion within a Peronism immersed in controversy.

On the 29th of this month a Bordonista summit will define the continued existence or demise of that faction in the PJ [Justicialist Party]. Until then, priority will be accorded to:

- Meetings between its working parties and those of Chacho Alvarez. Within those circles, thought is beginning to be given to the manner in which the senator and the deputy could become part of a presidential ticket for 1995.

- Talks with Federico Storani, at least until settlement of the UCR's internal debate.

- Dialogue with the critical pro-administration governors; this approach has already begun, with talks between Bordon and Kirchner.

Although unrelated to all of this, Frontists and Bordonistas have taken note of the political return of former Interior Minister Gustavo Beliz, who, in the company of Gerardo Conte Grand, spoke guardedly some days ago at a Club del Progreso luncheon, and urged his followers to repossess from Peronism the lost values of ethics and political transparency.

None of the recent political movements—not even the Federal March—appears to pose a serious threat as yet for the governing party, which continues maintaining its grip on the government.

But it is no less true that, since April and to date, and even though not organically, the opposition segment that was once the preserve of the UCR has been becoming more robust.

And the resulting uncertainty keeps the president from dreaming undisturbedly of his reelection.

Government Influence in PAMI Case Alleged

94SM0426A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 11 Jul 94 p 10

[Article by Omar Lavieri]

[Text] The Federal Court of Appeal must soon decide on two cases that directly concern the government: the dismissal or temporary stay of the charges against Amira Yoma for lack of sufficient evidence to justify trial, and the federal justice system's investigation of alleged corruption within the PAMI [Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan]. The Casa Rosada is seeking to influence these cases, in particular insofar as relates to the verdict of each of the Divisions of the Court. Consideration was even given to moving one of the judges, through the well-known device of promoting him to the Criminal Division's Court of Cassation.

Matilde Menendez's juridical situation worries the Menem administration officials so much that the movements of the chess pieces on the playing board of the Tribunals are already being compared to those made when the time came to save "the good name and honor" of Amira Yoma, Carlos Menem's former director of presidential meetings, who was charged with laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking, in the court case known as the Yoma Case.

In the federal courts—which have jurisdiction in cases of crimes committed by public officials or against the state—there are at least 17 cases in which Matilde Menendez's conduct while head of the PAMI is being investigated. Until the start of the shower of accusations against her, she was Peronism's feminine face in the Capital City on the occasion of the election of constituent delegates.

The PJ [Justicialist Party] lost at the hands of the Frente Grande [Great Front], and many were those who faulted Matilde for the defeat. Now, the Menem administration's politico-judicial structure appears to have all its weapons at the ready to defend the former official.

Last Sunday, CLARIN reported on a motion by Menendez's lawyers to declare the proceedings null so that the cases being investigated by Judges Jorge Urso and Juan Jose Galeano would revert to pages zero and, in the best of outcomes, be investigated by another pair of judges.

The two nullity motions must be decided by each of the Divisions that make up the Federal Court of Buenos Aires, which is the Tribunal that decides definitively whether a proceeding goes to an oral hearing. In the case of the former head of the PAMI, the manner in which the funds pertaining to the social security benefits of retirees were managed during Menendez's tenure could be laid before the judge.

Division I of the Court consists of Judges Luisa Riva Aramayo and Horacio Vigliani. The judges revealed their alignment with the government when, in record time, they released Amira Yoma from preventive detention. They must still decide whether the proceeding is to be dismissed or temporarily suspended. As of 27 July, Federal Judge Martin Irurzun will be added to the Division. He will not be able to take part in the disposition of the Yoma case because he has already acted as a judge in the proceeding.

Since relations between Riva Aramayo and Vigliani appear not to be as cordial as when they saved Mrs. Yoma, the government fears the possibility of a tie at the point of decision, in the case of the former director of presidential meetings as well as in that of Matilde.

Should there be a tie, one of the judges who sit in Division II would have to be brought in to break the tie. The Division II judges are Eduardo Luraschi and Horacio Cattani, the only one of the Federal Court judges who was not appointed by the Menemists.

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In the first political case they handled, they voted opposite to each other. Luraschi voted to release Gerardo Sofovich from preventive detention on charges of involvement in negotiations incompatible with his functions as auditor of ATC [expansion unknown]. Cattani opposed it. The tie had to be broken, and, in a predictable vote, Riva Aramayo released Sofovich from preventive detention.

But Luraschi's views do not seem to be as close to the government's as when he decided in favor of Sofovich, and governmental operators in the area of the judiciary are thinking of ways in which to change the profile of Division II.

Juan Cortelezzi, a former member of the Court during Raul Alfonsin's administration, will be installed in that Division very shortly. He comes to the new Court as a product of an agreement between Menem and the leader of the UCR.

The first attempt to change the Division's profile had already been made by Justice Minister Rodolfo Barra, who offered Cattani one of the seats that had remained vacant in the Court of Criminal Cassation. True to his style of not allowing himself to be tempted to abandon the Federal Court, as the story is told around Tribunals, Cattani declined the offered change.

The Court will first have to resolve the case of Mrs Yoma. The potential definitive dismissal of the proceeding is certain to be opposed by the Federal Court's prosecutor, Gustavo Hornos. Then it will have to decide Matilde's situation. Judges Urso and Galeano and prosecutors Gerardo Di Masa and Esmon Mullen have already opposed a dismissal. But this will not mean much once the officials concerned are freed of the threat of a trial hanging over their heads.

Bolivia

Civic Committee Leaders Discuss Hunger Strike

PY0308003094

[Editorial Report] La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 2 August broadcasts during its regular newscast a series of reports on peasant and labor organizations that have called for work stoppages on 6 August in view of the "series of social conflicts unleashed in the Chapare region in Cochabamba Department and the government's nonfulfillment of agreements achieved with peasant workers."

Answering Radio Fides on whether they plan to block roads, Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, Second Secretary General Juan de la Cruz Villca says that no decision has yet been made about road blockades, and that this decision would be made during a COB rally to be held in Chimore on 8 August. He adds that during a national meeting to be held on 3 August the COB will also view the Chimore mobilization plan, which has the support of all COB departmental organizations at the national level.

Later in the newscast the director of Radio Fides, Father Eduardo Iribarne, holds a telephone interview with La Paz Civic Committee President Roberto Freyre and Santa Cruz Civic Committee President Wilmar Stelzer in view of the hunger strike being observed by national civic committee leaders.

Answering Father Iribarne about the effects of the hunger strike, which they started last night, Freyre says that they are in perfect health condition. Answering Iribarne about the meeting they held last night with President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Freyre says that the president turned down the three proposals that were submitted. Freyre goes on to explain the three proposals, noting that "the first proposal deals with the traditional demand by the national civic movement that department assemblies be made up of representatives elected in each departmental province. The second proposal is for Articles 109 and 110 of the Constitution not to be amended; while the third proposal is that departmental council assemblies be formed with the participation of the so-called independent deputies [diputados uninominales], who are participating in the constitutional reform, and (?who will represent) these territorial districts. Moreover, we also demanded that 50 percent of civilian institutions, such as private enterprises, the Armed Forces, and the COB, also be represented, that is, in compliance with the procedures used previously to form the Development Corporation Boards, which have virtually disappeared."

Freyre explains that the president did not approve any of these proposals. He says that he was most willing to accept the last proposal, but he told them that for legal reasons these representatives of civilian society could only participate in assemblies or councils as observers, without the right to vote. Freyre adds that the president's proposal was turned down.

Asked whether the national civic leaders would accept the Senate's proposal that these councils or assemblies be made up of independent deputies only, Freyre says that unlike what the majority believes, the single-list candidate deputies are better than other deputies because they always support the presidential candidates, but that this would not occur with deputies who represent territorial districts.

Freyre also adds that civilian society cannot be denied the right to participate in these assemblies or councils. He says: "We do not believe politicians should enjoy absolute power. In the end this is the aspiration of the so-called political class, that is, to enjoy absolute power at all national political levels."

After agreeing with Freyre, and praising him for his stance, Father Iribarne explains the difference between normally appointed deputies and independent candidates. He adds that in the 1997 general elections there will only be single-party lists, only one presidential and one vice presidential candidate, and everyone else will be included on this list.

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Answering Iribarne about whether there is a possibility of achieving agreement on this issue, Freyre says that the only chance of solving this issue is in the hands of the Chamber of Deputies. Freyre adds that last night the civic committee leaders met with deputies from different political parties who support the civic committee leaders' position.

Immediately afterwards Iribarne interviews Santa Cruz Civic Committee President Wilmar Stelzer, who says that they are dignified representatives of the Bolivian people. He says that despite the ill-intentioned commentaries that are currently circulating, civic committee leaders want to achieve a new judicial structure, and agree with the constitutional reform, but do not want any abuses and dislike the way some laws are being handled. He adds: "I can honestly assert that we are not against any government, nor do we support any single opposition party." The Santa Cruz Civic Committee president says that they continue to uphold the same position they have upheld for 13 years, in opposition to a centralized system through a government-appointed and all-powerful prefect. He adds that legislators lack the necessary time to exert the necessary controls.

At this time Father Iribarne connects Wilmar Stelzer with Social Communications Minister Ernesto Machicao, who confirms that the president had held a meeting last night with civic committee leaders. He regrets the "unacceptable" position assumed by these leaders in staging a hunger strike, which can only exclude any possibility of dialogue. In addition Machicao criticizes the harsh terms used by Stelzer in describing the president's position as "undemocratic."

Machicao says that the government had been taken by surprise by the civic committee leaders' position, and that this was obstructing any kind of solution. He adds what is important now is to achieve a dialogue and discuss the issue thoroughly, and not to assume positions that can only turn one away from any solution. He says that this issue is not a new one, but came to the fore in April 1993 when the law on the need to implement reform was approved. Since then civic committee leaders have had a long time to find solutions, he asserts.

Stelzer then says that it is unfortunate that Machicao had not been present at the meeting with the president, but that the president had adopted an "inflexible" position. After justifying his position, and adding that the entire situation only goes to show that there is but one individual in command, Stelzer says he is willing to hold a dialogue, and that there are good signs that the channels of dialogue will be opened.

Stelzer concludes by stating that he hopes decentralization will be achieved, that new people will participate, that the country's political system will change, and that politicians will change their mentality.

After reasserting his position, and in response to Iribarne, Machicao reasserts that dialogue is the government's alternative. He asserts that the president had promised to continue the dialogue with the civic committee leaders and to study their proposals. Machicao categorically asserts that the government will not accept any pressure, and that "there cannot be a dialogue with a pending hunger strike."

After Stelzer says that the civic committee leaders are waiting for some government sign to lift the strike and resume the dialogue, Machicao says that the most important sign is the president's willingness to hold a dialogue and the fact that he met with them last night. Machicao indicates that to disregard this kind of sign does no good for democracy. Machicao reiterates that the civic committees' decision to continue with the hunger strike, when the doors to dialogue with the president are open, is a very intransigent position. Machicao concludes by saying that he hopes the civic committee leaders will reconsider their position, as everyone should advocate dialogue, especially when the president himself has opened the way to it.

Attempt To Dismantle Committees Protested

PY0208192094 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Speakers identified by screen captions]

[Text] An unsuccessful meeting last night between the president of the Republic and civic committee leaders has resulted in a hunger strike by the presidents of the committees, which refuse to disappear.

The civic movement disproves the executive branch' attempt to get Congress to approve Articles No. 109 and 110 of the Constitution. These articles refer to the creation of departmental assemblies that only include legislators.

Members of the civic committees believe that if these assemblies are presided over by senators or deputies, they will be at the service of certain political parties and not at the service of the people.

[Begin recording] [Pro-Santa Cruz Committee President Wilmar Stelzer] Political parties do not hold elections. They have a chief who rules and orders. We are now suffering the consequences of certain pigheaded politicians who, due to compromises, are acting irrationally.

[Unidentified reporter] But the presidents of the civic committees are not elected directly by the people. For example, how did they elect you in Santa Cruz?

[Stelzer] The civilian society organizations, let us call them civic systems, do hold elections. There are a series of social, sports, labor, workers, businessmen, peasant, and neighborhood organizations all of which belong to the Pro-Santa Cruz Civic Committee. These organization elect a president, a vice president, and a second vice president of the pro-Santa Cruz committee. [end recording]

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The president of the Pro-Santa Cruz Civic Committee asserted that they are not asking for a federal system, although he believes this possibility should not be fully ruled out.

[Begin recording] [Pro-La Paz Committee President Roberto Freyre] Only three basic principles are necessary for a federal system: an executive branch, a legislative branch, and a judicial branch—but none of them are present in the interior. Departmental governments are allowed to exercise only some executive branch activities. I wonder if any federal countries have been destroyed, gone bankrupt, or endured a national disaster. I repeat, we are not asking for a federal system. We, in our capacity as civic movement, are asking for a decentralized administration. [end recording]

Experience has shown that one of the risks is that civic committee representatives may use their post as a sort of springboard to occupy posts in the executive or the legislative branches.

This morning the president of the Pro-La Paz Civic Committee made a promise.

[Begin recording] [Freyre] The current president of the Pro-La Paz Committee will not accept, nor will allow his appointment, by any political party as a candidate for any post in the Republic, that is, to the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, or as a councilman. I want to emphasize this as a sign that not all of us act with this in mind. [end recording]

The Pro-La Paz Civic Committee president believes departmental assemblies should not just comprise legislators because they do not worry about their respective regions as much as civic representatives do. The purpose of this hunger strike is to safeguard the civic committees which refuse to disappear but the measure has started to expand because other organizations have joined this strike. This is the case with the Friends of the City organization, at government house, and the El Alto Civic Committee.

COB on Need To Improve Workers' Situation

PY0208205494 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Speaker identified by screen caption]

[Text] Following an internal seminar in Coroico, La Paz, the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] made decisions that will affect its future.

The COB has realized that one year after the current government came to power, the workers' situation has deteriorated. The COB has called on all labor union, regional, and neighborhood organizations to unite efforts to reverse the situation.

The COB announced it will strive to ensure pending issues of the agreement reached with the government are fulfilled. It also announced its decision to uphold free public education, to oppose the privatization of the social security service, and to strive to preserve natural resources, the environment, the rights of the indigenous communities to uphold the campaign for the defense of their forests as begun by the Bolivian Forum on Environment and Development Issues, and to struggle to prevent the entry of toxic waste into Bolivia.

The COB also wants the people to have a true opportunity to participate. It will respect labor union and natural organizations with a historical background in Bolivia. It also ratified its decision to struggle against corruption, drug trafficking, and to uphold the legal production of coca leaf.

Very deep-rooted proposals, like the ones mentioned by COB leader Carlos Camargo, were also made during the seminar in Coroico.

[Begin Camargo recording] The COB deems necessary a state reform and transformation so as to allow more elbow room for the organized civilian society to prevent the political parties from monopolizing and manipulating the most important decisions. A number of laws are being approved without the necessary national debate and without the consensus of the people. Unfortunately, essential decisions are made solely by a party board or by a group of political leaders who do not represent all groups—not even of their own party members.

For this reason we are making a concrete proposal. We want recognition of the rights of all social, popular, and other organizations to present their own candidates in municipal and general elections without the intervention of political parties. We are not proposing the elimination of the political parties. We want—independent of parties—civilian organizations that may also dispute posts in the government. To achieve this we need a reform in the political system. [end recording]

The COB also proposes a decentralization of the government the main objective of which is the country's unity.

[Begin Camargo recording] We do not agree with the country's federalization or with those who seek its disintegration. We believe a well-organized process will enable us to strengthen the unity of our country and of the nation as a whole. This process should also recognize the right of the regions to participate in a participative planning process which will outline and establish regional development strategies. [end recording]

The COB expressed its solidarity with the hunger strike of the La Paz Civic Committee and will seek the union of the civic and union organizations in the struggle for better living conditions, which is of mutual interest.

Brazil

UN Vote Abstention on Haiti Explained

PY0308024694 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Aug 94 p 6

[From the "JB Report" column by Ronaldo Brasiliense and Anabela Paiva]

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[Text] President Itamar Franco had the presidential election in mind when he decided to have Brazil abstain in the UN Security Council vote authorizing the invasion of Haiti.

Franco rationalized that a Brazilian endorsement of the U.S. intervention proposal could have been used by PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva against rising [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Franco was afraid that the PT might charge the government, and consequently Cardoso, with having surrendered to imperialism.

A diplomat said: At Planalto Palace, every external development is considered in terms of domestic politics.

A similar situation occurred when Argentine President Carlos Menem criticized the Brazilian minimum salary. Franco reacted violently to prevent Menem's criticism from sparking a wave of salary demands in the country precisely at a time when the Real Plan was being consolidated.

Melvin Levitsky, U.S. ambassador to Brazil, unsuccessfully pressured Itamaraty until the last minute to obtain a unanimous vote at the UN Security Council.

Lula Takes Control of PT; Extreme Factions Lose

PY0208235494 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jul 94 p 10

[Article by Carlos Eduardo Alves]

[Text] PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has decided to take charge of his electoral campaign. By imposing Deputy Aloizio Mercadante (Sao Paulo) as his vice presidential candidate, Lula has regained control of the party and has retaken the ground he had lost to PT extreme left factions.

Lula knows that the choice of Mercadante will change the PT's internal political structure.

Mercadante is one of the leaders closest to Lula in the party, but he is not approved of by the factions that until yesterday had been in control of the party.

The PT's leftist and extreme leftist factions have used their opposition to Mercadante's ideas as a major tool for control of the party.

These groups are represented in the campaign coordinating board by Rui Falcao (Leftist Option) and Luiz Eduardo Greenhalgh (In the Struggle PT).

Annoyed by the PT campaign coordinating board's inability to solve the impasses that have so far affected his campaign, Lula took advantage of the Bisol episode to demonstrate that from now on his candidacy will be managed by people in his absolute trust.

Since last year Lula has been counseled only by his friends, to make it quite clear that he is in charge of the party.

Lacking the patience to listen to the endless ideological discussions which are part of the everyday life of the PT meetings, Lula often thought about "banging the table," but he always hesitated.

Lula has chosen to react this time, which he considers to be the most dangerous one for his presidential dream.

Lula believes that the PT's excessively radical and sectarian tone during the negotiations for state alliances were marking his candidacy as radical, as was desired by his opponents.

By choosing Mercadante—who nonetheless has a minority share in the party leadership—Lula is signaling that his government will be open to other political forces.

The current PT dilemma is either to have a leadership supported by the party militants, but without a meaningful presence in society, or to have a party minority represented in society but without weight in the party bureaucracy.

When PT President Rui Falcao assumed power he attempted to erase his image as leader of the orthodox group that had taken over the positions held by Lula's closest friends.

Despite Falcao's efforts not to clash with Lula, it is undeniable that the election of Mercadante represents a harsh blow to the PT president.

The option for Mercadante represents within the PT the success of the positions closest to social democracy, and the strengthening of the forces that favor a more important role for Congress in democracy.

Another loser, in addition to the Leftist Option, is the minority faction In the Struggle PT, which is a radical group, the best known representative of which is Luiz Eduardo Greenhalgh.

Lula's idea now is to campaign on the streets and give Mercadante a greater role in the political coordination of the PT.

Despite this setback, the radical groups must accept this decision, because they understood the message that the party again has a master.

Poll Shows 3 Percent Between Lula, Cardoso

PY0208221394 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jul 94 Section 1, p 8

[Article by Clovis Rossi]

[Text] Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the candidate for the PSDB-PFL-PTB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party—Liberal Front Party—and Brazilian Labor Party] alliance, has closed on Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva,

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the candidate for the coalition headed by the PT [Workers Party] in the most recent poll carried out by Datafolha between 25 and 26 July. The poll shows Lula has 32 percent and Cardoso has 29 percent.

The margin of error is 2 percent for each candidacy. This means Lula may have 34 or 30 percent, while Cardoso may have between 27 and 31 percent. Statistically, they could be even.

In little more than a month the difference between the two candidates dropped from the 22-percent advantage Lula had over Cardoso in the poll conducted between 9 and 13 June (41 percent for Lula against 19 percent for Cardoso) to the current 3 percent.

Lula's popularity began to drop in June and Cardoso began to increase following the poll carried out between 23 and 24 May.

Comparing the latest poll with that conducted between 11 and 13 June, Lula's popularity has dropped from 34 to 32 percent while Cardoso's has increased from 25 to 29 percent.

The other candidates remained practically unchanged. Orestes Quercia (of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party), and Leonel Brizola (of the Democratic Labor Party) did not move from the 7 percent each they obtained at the beginning of the month.

More favorable news for Cardoso appears in the rejection poll results. Rejection for Lula climbed from 28 percent to 33 percent, placing him second to Brizola who has a 36 percent rejection rate.

The rejection rate for Cardoso dropped from 14 to 13 percent, the smallest rejection rate among the 10 presidential candidates.

In the case of a hypothetical second round vote between Lula and Cardoso, for the first time the result has become reversed.

So far Lula always came first on a second round, except in the former poll (between 11 and 13 June) which suggested a tie at 43 percent each.

Cardoso now leads beyond the margin of error: 47 percent for him against 40 percent for Lula.

In the spontaneous poll (without mentioning the candidate's name) the same results were obtained: Lula wins by barely 3 percent: 17 percent for Lula and 14 percent for Cardoso.

Dividing the country into four regions, Lula leads in the South and Northeast beyond the 2 percent margin of error. He remains behind, but within the margin of error, in the Southeast and Center West.

In the 11 states where the poll was carried out, only four have shown results beyond the margin of error, all of them in favor of Lula: Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia, Pernambuco, and the Federal District.

Cardoso leads in Sao Paulo, but by just 1 percent (18 percent for Cardoso, 17 percent for Lula). In the other six states, Lula is always ahead but by less than the 2 percent margin of error.

Chile

Frei To Attend Mercosur Summit in Buenos Aires

PY0208235094 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The government has officially announced that President Eduardo Frei will attend the summit of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] presidents in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where negotiations will begin to include Chile into this organization.

[Begin Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa recording] President Eduardo Frei has been invited to this summit and he has accepted. You know what Mercosur represents for a subregional integration. It is a market of 190 million inhabitants and represents 50 percent of the overall Latin American geographical product. Argentina and Brazil are the third and fourth business partners, respectively, of Chile in the world. Our exports to Mercosur represent 60 percent of overall Chilean exports to Latin America. As a market it cannot be more important. [end recording]

The Chilean foreign minister added that President Frei will be in Buenos Aires for the two-day summit on 4 and 5 August.

Arica 'Practically Paralyzed' by Strike Protesting Economic Situation

PY0208233894 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Yesterday Arica was practically paralyzed by a strike protesting the serious economic situation this city is suffering. Last night Arica labor representatives held a meeting, followed by a motorcade, to celebrate the success of the strike, which had progressed calmly.

Some 30 trucks were parked all night along the side of the Arica southern access highway. At 0700 the next morning a group of more than 100 trucks blocked the highway to the Peruvian border. The farmers followed suit, using their tractors to block the highway from Arica to the Asapa valley. [passage omitted]

The true magnitude of the strike became obvious after 0800, when nobody went to their work or to schools. In compliance with the law, only public offices and banks attended to the public.

Public transportation services were also completely paralyzed, and on the streets there were only a few people and a great number of policemen—just as a safety measure, as no incidents were registered. [passage omitted]

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The Arica Hospital worked normally. Its workers, however, met at the hospital entrance at noon to voice their support for the strike. This is the second strike in Arica to draw the government's attention to the socioeconomic crisis this city is suffering. [passage omitted]

Today President Eduardo Frei asserted that the strike in Arica will not change the government's policy for the remote areas of the country. He said that the policy is designed to find a deep-rooted solution to the problem affecting this border town.

[Begin Frei recording] Well, I am very calm, because the government has a policy of tackling the problems affecting Arica and other remote areas of the country, and we are trying to solve them. We have created an inter-ministry commission for this purpose, and everyone is aware of Arica's problems. There have been other measures of force, but as we know, they solve nothing. We must seek that city's harmonious development, as we have done in other sectors such as in the coal mines, where both the public and private enterprises are investing. As we said in the case of the coal mines, we must create the necessary atmosphere for attracting rather than discouraging investors. [end recording]

President Frei made this comment after dedicating improvements at the handicapped people's handicraft fair. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Senate Chooses New Attorney General

PA0308012394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Report by Jairo Gomez from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] The Colombian Senate has just chosen Dr. Orlando Vasquez Velasquez as the new attorney general for the 1994-1998 period. Vasquez will replace Carlos Gustavo Arrieta. Vasquez received 80 votes in favor and 22 votes against. The remaining 22 congressmen voted for Andres Gonzalez and Marcela Monroy.

Vasquez will assume office despite criticism by the media, which are reporting a member of the Colombian Senate will leave that body and immediately be sworn in as attorney general.

Businessmen Protest Search Bloc Activities

94P21018A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO 17 Jul 94 p 12A

[Text] The Valle del Cauca Permanent Committee of Businessmen and the chambers of commerce in the region vigorously protested the recent searches conducted against honorable citizens. They said these actions were hasty and described them as publicity stunts.

While they reiterated their support for the justice system, they warned that "hasty actions such as the aforementioned could affect the credibility that has been gained."

The business associations said that the security forces' actions appear to be aimed at pursuing good citizens "while the drug traffickers remain free."

During the past two weeks, the Search Bloc, which has been charged with dismantling the Valle drug trafficking network, has intensified searches in the city. According to the security forces, between seven and 10 raids are conducted per day.

Among those affected by the raids are the former Liberal councilman Mariano Ramos, whose residence was searched a month ago.

Ramos said there are serious gaps in military intelligence because, according to him, searches are being conducted on properties belonging to people not involved in illegal activities. "Military intelligence is acting blindly," he said, adding that documents confiscated from his office have not been returned to him.

Former Cali mayor Henry Eder said his country home was searched four months ago.

Mayor Rodrigo Guerrero said he was in agreement with the operations aimed at neutralizing the drug traffickers' activities. However, he said they should guard against what happened during the period when raids were conducted in Medellin when uncontrolled publicity surrounding these actions contributed to the deterioration of the city's image.

Ecopetrol To Focus on Large-Scale Projects

94CA0133A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Jun 94 pp 8, 9B

[Article by EL TIEMPO "special correspondent" Clara Ines Rueda G.]

[Text] Barrancabermeja—Petroleum policy is taking a new turn: Ecopetrol will work only the large fields, leaving the rest in the hands of other companies.

The announcement was made by the president of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol), Juan Maria Rendon, during the "Present and Future of Petroleum" forum held in Barrancabermeja.

In his view, petroleum exploration and extraction must be very efficient if it is to compete. "That is why we must focus on projects as large as Cusiana and Cano Limon and abandon other ventures," said Rendon.

The companies coming in to work the other fields would not receive partnership contracts, but instead either services or operating contracts.

Also, Rendon stated that the international promotion for the privatization of the company Promigas would begin in two weeks.

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According to Rendon, the company could cost $60 million, about 50 billion pesos. "I do not think we will be able to privatize it before the end of the current administration, but we will have made progress," he stated.

The international rounds will be held in the markets of the United States, London, and Canada. By legal mandate, the workers have priority in the sale of Promigas. Then, private investors can make their bids.

Rendon also confirmed that the state-owned petroleum company would issue $100 million in new bonds to finance the Cusiana projects. "In the next three months we will float the bonds on international stock markets," he said. The sale will bring in about 83 billion pesos at today's exchange rate.

Ecopetrol will have to invest close to $3 billion (2.5 trillion pesos) to develop Cusiana, which is why it must raise funds. The other partners in the project will have to contribute similar sums.

In addition, Rendon stated that an agreement between Ecopetrol, the City of Barrancabermeja, and the Chamber of Commerce to train petroleum workers in the area and thus reduce social tensions would be put into effect. The program will be promoted by the Foundation for Higher Education (FES).

State Control

The president of the Workers Trade Union (USO), Cesar Carrillo, indicated that his organization is going to introduce a bill in the next legislative session to put the Colombian Petroleum Code in order.

"The point is to establish laws under which the State would control the production of crude as well as regulate and manage the sector," Carrillo said.

In his judgment, because petroleum policy consists of a variety of resolutions issued over the last 20 years, new guidelines need to be established.

He added that the bill also calls for the creation of a watchdog agency, consisting of members of the Congress of the Republic, business associations, and the pertinent ministries, that would oversee the development of the petroleum industry.

Carrillo also asserted that "the fact that Ecopetrol is selling its stock in different companies means that it is being privatized, even if the governing bodies do not admit it."

The governor of Santander, Juan Carlos Duarte Torres, mentioned that a regional political project is under way to make the department a petrochemical power.

"We must take advantage of Ecopetrol's policy of selling off its assets and the low requirements to acquire them," said Duarte. According to him, there is a consensus in this regard among local authorites, the private sector, and the universities.

Duarte mentioned favorable factors such as the potential of the Group of Three (Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia) and other integration agreements, excess demand, the fact that Santander refines 65 percent of the crude oil in Colombia, and the possibility of building two customs-free areas here.

Ecuador

Foreign Ministry: No Plans To Participate in Haitian Invasion

PA0208191494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1719 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Quito, 2 Aug (EFE)—The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry announced today that Ecuador will not form part of a military force commanded by the United States and authorized by the United Nations to invade and restore democracy in Haiti.

In a communique, the Foreign Ministry indicated, however, that "the Ecuadoran Government hopes Haiti's de facto government, led by Emile Jonassaint, will heed the general clamor calling for a return to a democratic regime."

Ecuador's conservative President Sixto Duran-Ballen asked Haiti's "de facto" regime to "allow the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in order to protect the lives and integrity of the Haitian people, who are being subjected to hideous violations of their basic human rights."

According to the Ecuadoran Government, "the restoration of democracy, the respect for human rights, and an appropriate social policy constitute the suitable means for facing the serious problems affecting the Haitian nation."

It adds that "once the lawful and democratic government has been reinstated in Haiti, Ecuador is willing to heed, as soon as possible, the request for assistance—particularly for health care and food—to help Haitians cope with their current crisis."

Vice President Dahik's Governing Style Viewed

94SM0408B Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p A-3

[Text] Everyone wonders how Alberto Dahik will govern when he is in charge of the presidency of the Republic. Especially because of persistent reports that it is the vice president who makes the government's principal decisions.

This is an almost general feeling. Nevertheless, it has been repeatedly denied by government officials, who have hastened to defend the leadership of the president of Ecuador, Sixto Duran-Ballen.

Although Dahik is indisputably the leader of the government's economic policy, a fact accepted by the regime's

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officials, he has also been responsible for political decisions, as in the case of the referendum.

It is also said that the vice president takes advantage of Duran-Ballen's absences to adopt important solutions of basic questions, and not just administrative ones.

This ninth stewardship of the presidency—while the president was at the IV Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena, Colombia—is an example of the vice president's power.

Dahik vetoed totally the Special Law on Tax Ordinances for Provincial and Municipal Councils.

In addition, it fell to him coincidentally to deal with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal's (TSE) resistance to calling the plebiscite. This caused him to carry out an intense campaign in support of the constitutional assembly, to improve the atmosphere supporting its enactment on 7 August 1994.

Furthermore, the plebiscite proposal was first launched by Dahik, which provoked a reaction by ex-Minister of Information and Tourism Carlos Vera. The ex-minister saw this initiative by Dahik as going over the head of the chief of state, who—in Vera's opinion—should have proposed it personally to the country. This opinion cost Vera his position.

When the plebiscite proposal was first turned down, the president was in Japan and China, between 11 and 29 March 1994. Dahik, as acting president, organized a government campaign never before seen.

Accompanied by the cabinet, surrounded by policemen and bodyguards, he presented a judicial complaint against the members of the TSE, and he requested their exemplary punishment by the Supreme Court of Justice for having refused to call the plebiscite.

In addition, as acting president he signed decrees, reformed the schedule of import duties, issued bonds in the amount of 18 billion sucres, named ambassadors, and, in particular, ordered Minister of Social Welfare Alberto Cardenas to conduct an exhaustive investigation of the IESS (Ecuadoran Social Security Institute) regarding alleged irregularities attributed to its ex-director general, Italo Colamarco.

Colamarco was later forced to resign by Minister Cardenas, opening the way for the regime's policies in favor of participation in social security by private enterprise.

To counteract the impression of eagerness to govern, Dahik said that "he does not like to feel powerful," and that "he is more at ease when the president is in the country, because otherwise he must take care of two jobs, looking after the presidency and the vice presidency."

Another argument advanced by the vice president to illustrate his lack of interest in being acting president is that, in this age of immediate communication, it is not necessary for the chief of state to delegate his power. This could even create two presidents, Dahik said.

Dahik emphasized that the temporary succession should serve for the vice president to perform administrative tasks.

Despite these statements, Dahik has made important decisions during Duran-Ballen's nine absences, although it could be assumed that they were agreed to by the president.

Whoever is in charge in the government, it is understandable that Dahik, as acting president, imparts a different style of government in his decisions, which gives a personal stamp to his performance.

[Box, p A-3]

Why Do They Avoid the Vice Presidential Chair?

The presidents of the legislative and judicial branches have been rather reluctant to take the place of the vice president of the Republic, Alberto Dahik, on the nine occasions when the president has been out of the country.

The presidents of Congress, Carlos Vallejo and Samuel Bellettini, declined to assume the vice presidency as required by law. Then it was up to the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, Francisco Acosta Yepez. But he has done this rarely.

The ex-president of Congress, Carlos Vallejo, of Popular Democracy (DP), argued on 15 February that he would not occupy the position temporarily because he was responsible for conducting an extraordinary session called to pass political verdicts against Pablo Better, the ex-minister of industry of the current government and of finance in the previous government.

"The constitutional grounds (illness or absence) do not exist. In this case, Vice President Dahik is in the country and he can look after the president's office and take care of the inherent responsibilities of the vice president at the same time," Vallejo said.

Samuel Bellettini, the current president of the National Congress, justified his refusal on several occasions, "because attention to matters inherent to the legislature does not permit me to remove myself from that responsibility."

IDB President Discusses Programs in Country

94SM0408C Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 18 Jun 94 p A-20

[Interview with Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank; place and date not given]

[Text] The president of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias, on a visit to this

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country, said that the regional lending organization will support the government's social measures during the remainder of its mandate.

Ecuador is fulfilling the macroeconomic requirements that govern loans in the region and is within the overall objective of achieving a free trade economy, Iglesias said.

EL COMERCIO spoke with Enrique Iglesias in order to learn about the economic and social situation in Latin America and about the IDB's programs in Ecuador.

[EL COMERCIO] Why is Ecuador the recipient of a credit of $1.65 billion, which exceeds the amount loaned to it during 34 years of the life of the bank?

[Iglesias] Ecuador has made a series of changes in its laws that will lead toward the modernization of the state, which is a guarantee of other actions.

[EL COMERCIO] Is this support for the government?

[Iglesias] If Ecuador follows the model of other countries in Latin America in updating its economic structure, consolidating its macroeconomic situation, reducing inflation and recovering international reserves, it will receive credits.

[EL COMERCIO] The social costs do not matter?

[Iglesias] They are always much less than costs paid over many years.

[EL COMERCIO] Does the IDB support privatization in Latin America?

[Iglesias] It does to the extent that it is an efficient way to administer public property and allows the state to be more efficient. Privatization is not a religious theme, there are things that the private sector can do better, and things that the state should administer.

[EL COMERCIO] How is the assistance to Ecuador distributed?

[Iglesias] In four great programs that include $375 million for environmental cleanup, $360 million for social programs, $430 million for productivity, and $350 million for reform programs.

[EL COMERCIO] Which sector has priority?

[Iglesias] Environmental cleanup and social programs, to which 45 percent of the funds will be allocated.

[EL COMERCIO] Does not the indigenous peoples' sector interest the IDB?

[Iglesias] The indigenous sector will receive special treatment. Technical assistance for $20 million will be assigned to small programs as a grant.

[EL COMERCIO] Do you have a recommendation for the public sector to follow?

[Iglesias] The state's enterprises are in deficit, and when an enterprise loses money it is terrible, because it absorbs resources that could be used for development. If it is charging this cost to society, then there is a loss.

[EL COMERCIO] What can be done?

[Iglesias] The state should conserve its funds and not spend them on subsidies that often have political and not social purposes.

[EL COMERCIO] Is social development compatible with privatization?

[Iglesias] Yes, when they are accompanied by specific policies that the state cannot abandon.

[EL COMERCIO] Payment of the foreign debt has been another problem for our economy.

[Iglesias] Existing commitments must be respected, domestic as well as foreign, which means that the debt must be serviced. When there are difficulties in paying, assistance can be provided so that governments have guidance on how to allocate their resources, which is the case of Ecuador.

[EL COMERCIO] What is the IDB's contribution to the payment of Ecuador's debt?

[Iglesias] It is $150 million. With these funds we will help the country reduce its debt.

[EL COMERCIO] What benefits will Ecuador's entry into the G-3 [Group of Three] bring to our economy?

[Iglesias] The phenomenon of integration is important and practical. We are learning how to go forward with integration, and it must be done in an open and competitive way, in economies that must make room for themselves and seek international markets.

[EL COMERCIO] Is it beneficial for countries to enter in a bloc?

[Iglesias] We do not believe in blocs as objectives; they are associations that must improve their capability for joint action, especially in the field of investments, but always in a free market economy.

[EL COMERCIO] Is free trade good?

[Iglesias] It is an opportunity for Latin America to reach the United States, Canada, Mexico, and other markets.

[EL COMERCIO] How can the open market in Latin America be supported?

[Iglesias] By consolidating the world market and trusting in it.

[EL COMERCIO] How does the bank provide support?

[Iglesias] In several ways. The most effective way for this purpose is to provide support for the infrastructure, and for restructuring integration in highways, agriculture, industry, etc.

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[EL COMERCIO] How do you evaluate the Andean Pact?

[Iglesias] The Andean Pact, like other organs of integration, must be updated and modernized, and must seek open and competitive integration.

PSC's Nebot Views Plebiscite, Agrarian Reform

94SM0408A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Jun 94 p A-6

[Text] Social Christian presidential precandidate Jaime Nebot outlined his views yesterday on national network television regarding the plebiscite and constitutional reforms. His speech follows:

"I am not going to increase the nation's bewilderment but rather will try to end it. There are three truths bigger than a cathedral. One: all sensible Ecuadorans want a profound reform of the Constitution, so that it will generate prosperity.

"Another: the president of the Republic has the right to call a plebiscite.

"And the third: both of these things must be done while respecting the procedures established by the Constitution itself, without tricks or hidden motives.

"When something so simple to resolve has become such an enormous muddle, able to create so much distrust and confusion, it is simply because some of those who present themselves as defenders of democracy and of the people, are really against both. The way to clear up this situation is to reveal who the cheater is. I, who have always told you the truth, tell you that the cheater is the government.

"Let us remember that the government lies and misleads constantly: in the electoral campaign, during these last 22 months, when it wanted to eliminate intervening elections while advocating its own continuation in office, then when it said that it wanted a plebiscite on 1 May and in practice proposed keeping half of us from voting because of lack of time. Today it lies and deceives us when, the question of the plebiscite being already settled, it turns out that now the government wants a constitutional assembly that it had not previously asked for. Are these merely the incoherences of a senile government? Or is there a group of people behind it who want even more power to do you even more harm?

"The president also misleads us when he reads publicly only a part of article 79 of the Constitution. Because he cunningly omits the rest of the article relating to article 149, which establishes that the chief of state must first present the proposal for reform to the National Congress, and only when it is rejected can he submit it to the people for a final verdict. Why is this simple procedure not being followed? What does the group that manipulates the president really want? Since they lost the election, and by your decision are a minority in Congress, they now want to invent another, parallel congress, because that is all a constitutional assembly is. Naming half of its members dictatorially, without the involvement of the people. This is how they cheat you, of your right to vote, they would illegitimately control the new congress and make a Constitution that suits them, that will undoubtedly make it easier for them to continue the inhuman task of making the rich richer and the poor poorer. In order to organize this, it does not bother them to spend 30 billion sucres and in addition to pay expenses, not just to 77 deputies but to 154. Furthermore, the architect, Sixto Duran-Ballen, wants to create a smoke screen to conceal the insane increase in the price of fuel, the rise of 400 percent in the cost of telephone service, the 750,000 Ecuadorans out of work, the speculation in the price of foodstuffs, the robbery of 70 percent of the budget for social welfare, and the subhuman conditions in which our children go to school.

"We are going to continue to fight the government, its injustices and its antidemocratic methods. Ecuadorans, to oppose that which is negative is a necessity, but to propose and achieve what is possible is a birthright. We will continue to propose consistently our established programs and we will never bargain away our right to fight for complete constitutional reform that includes the following points:

- Eligibility of independent candidates for all popularly elected positions. That the representatives of the indigenous peoples, of the chambers, of the universities, of the workers, and of other important associations should be able to be elected to Congress and even to the presidency of the Republic. But through your vote and not through designation by the president.
- Reelection to all offices, including that of presidency of the Republic, without limitation on number of terms and without intervening periods.
- Removal from the National Congress of the power to appoint justices of the Supreme Court, as the only way to depoliticize the judiciary.
- Elimination of privileges that cause inequalities and injustice among Ecuadorians.
- Establishment of social and development policies that allow us to combat poverty effectively and create jobs.
- Institution of administrative and economic decentralization, broadening and improving the quality of services, and drastic limitation of interference by legislators in the state budget.

"Again, we propose total democracy and the solidarity change that Ecuador needs."

[Box, p A-6]

The PSC and Agrarian Reform

Following last night's national network television broadcast—a method that the Social Christian Party (PSC) has often used to explain its views—the presidential precandidate outlined to EL COMERCIO his program on agrarian reform:

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[EL COMERCIO] Why did you support reform and finally formulate an agrarian reform law identical to that of the government?

[Nebot] I invite any Ecuadoran who believes that the agrarian reform proposed by the government is the same as the PSC's Agrarian Development Law to compare them. There are big differences.

In the government proposal, land ownership provides for security in the landowning sector and the virtual destruction of communitarian ownership. We have preserved communitarian ownership of property. Even more, we are promoting it as a unit of production.

With regard to water, the government wanted indefinite concessions and to separate the water from the land, creating opportunities for abuse of power. We did the opposite, turning water into a real right inseparable from the land, so that land cannot be sold without water. The government's law makes no mention of man, nor of peasants, nor of indigenous peoples. There is a chapter in our law about training for peasants and indigenous peoples.

We have introduced, among other features, cheap credit, agricultural insurance, duty-free importation of goods needed for agricultural production, the addition of technology, and support for agroindustry. We did not write a law for certain extremist indigenous persons nor for certain extremist landowners.

Former 'Red Sun' Leader on Defeat, Future Plans

94WR0199A Quito HOY in Spanish 20 Jun 94 p 7A

[Interview with Ramiro Celi, former leader of "Red Sun" (Fuka Inti), by Diego Cornejo and Juan Carlos Calderon; first seven paragraphs are HOY editorial introduction]

[Text] Ramiro Celi was the principal leader involved in the surrender of the "Red Sun" group. Now, after 13 years of clandestine activity, he is looking for a job.

He did not exactly say that the surrender of "Red Sun" means a strategic retreat, that is, the dissolution of the "program," which is what he calls it.

He is Ramiro Celi, spokesman of the subversive group. On 2 June he took part in a controversial ceremony of surrender at the Ministry of Defense.

The matter was covered extensively in the 12 June issue of BLANCO Y NEGRO [Black and White]. In this interview with Diego Cornejo Menacho and Juan Carlos Calderon, a few loose pieces of the puzzle have been put in place, although the great, basic questions are still unanswered.

We will have to wait for time to go by before comparing the statements of "Red Sun" supporters and those by military sources.

Celi said: "We believed in building the party, a party which worked in silence, at certain levels among the masses, in which the traditional Left had not been active. In building the party we impressed the factor of violence on it, and perhaps that was our tactical and strategic mistake."

He also confirmed that the terms of the agreement with the Armed Forces are contained in the petition which they sent to the president.

[Cornejo] Are you going to continue to be active in politics?

[Celi] As a member of "Red Sun"? No.

[Cornejo] Are you dismantling its organizational structure?

[Celi] Certainly.

[Cornejo] What orders have been given to "Red Sun" members?

[Celi] Demobilization orders have been issued. Each member is completely free to go on with his life as he wishes.

[Cornejo] What are you going to do?

[Celi] I spent almost 13 years of clandestine life. After such a long time it is hard to return to ordinary life, a world totally foreign to what we wanted to build. Nevertheless, I think that I have an opportunity to achieve some family goals.

[Cornejo] Will a dangerous man find a job?

[Celi] I am not so unrealistic as to believe that it will be easy for me. However, I believe that, in one way or another, an opportunity can be found for me so that I can live.

[Cornejo] Did "Red Sun" surrender all of its weapons?

[Celi] Yes, we surrendered all of them.

[Cornejo] "By chance," were these weapons brand new?

[Celi] Among the weapons surrendered were some antitank rockets. If I am not mistaken, these dated back to the 1970's. The problem is in the maintenance of the equipment. They were not new weapons, but we kept them in good condition by proper maintenance.

[Cornejo] Were you dependent on the Shining Path [SL] movement [in Peru]?

[Celi] Absolutely not. We had a good relationship, certainly. This was a relationship which implied a series of things and political agreements, but not a relationship which controlled our logistics or joint operations—nothing like that. There was not even a military training relationship.

[Cornejo] But the Peruvian Directorate Against Terrorism (DIRCOTE) was after you.

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[Celi] In 1991 we tried to establish more solid contacts with Shining Path and we sent them a letter. Unfortunately, all of this became public knowledge when President Gonzalo was arrested, for one of our letters was found in his files, with names and addresses. This was the clue which DIRCOTE followed in its contacts with Ecuadorian intelligence.

[Cornejo] What did the letter say?

[Celi] It called for closer relationships, regular meetings, exchanging documents, and formalizing contacts which existed but which had still not been approved by the Central Committee of Shining Path or by our own Central Committee.

[Cornejo] What did you mean when you said that the Army "defeated" you militarily?

[Celi] We meant that there was a high level of infiltration by the Army in our organization. It is difficult to be sure how long this had been going on. The police were the objective of all of our intelligence work. We paid no attention to the Army, because we believed that they were behind the times when they said that Klever Gia was the number one figure in our organization.

[Cornejo] Perhaps the minister of defense lied two years ago when he said that the members of the "Red Sun" organization had been identified and were being watched.

[Celi] I do not believe that he lied. I am not defending him. It is clear that they conducted their intelligence work under conditions of total secrecy. Although they say that they had reached that point three years ago, we cannot say when this happened definitively. They worked very patiently.

[Cornejo] Is it a fact that a secret war has been going on with the Army for the past six years?

[Celi] Yes, you can say that and in those terms. We tried to do that, without presenting it as the result of building the party.

[Cornejo] Did the activity which you carried out since you were infiltrated by the Army reflect Military Intelligence tactics?

[Celi] I do not think so. The level of infiltration did not affect military decisions. It affected our mass structure. It did not succeed in developing to the point where it affected the operational responsibilities of the party. We were militarily defeated in terms of two elements: one was infiltration, and another aspect, which we have to admit with sorrow, was that one of our comrades betrayed us.

[Cornejo] Did a woman betray you?

[Celi] The person who infiltrated our ranks was a woman. However, we may be mistaken. Everything points to the fact that it was a young woman who succeeded in getting close to a member of the Central Committee, though she did not get really close to him. What annoyed me was to see that the Army was not even interested in interrogating me. They captured me to make me see that we were fully known to them, as well as the areas where we worked. They put us up against the wall. It would have been irresponsible to let things go on as they were.

[Cornejo] In your petition the release of Jaime Cortez was referred to. However, he does not recognize your group as the leadership of the "Red Sun" organization. Furthermore, he was about to be released.

[Celi] We believed that this was in deference to a member of the party. We thought that we were keeping a moral commitment to him.

Venezuela

Government To Sponsor Effort To Avoid Invasion of Haiti

PA0208191394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1753 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Caracas, 2 Aug (EFE)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Burelli indicated today that a mission sponsored by the Venezuelan Government will attempt to meet with the Haitian military leaders in the next few hours in an effort to avoid the possible invasion of this Caribbean country.

"We will try to make them understand that their situation is like that of a person with a gun to his head," the foreign minister said.

Burelli explained that the chances of making this last effort work depended on whether Haitian officers would receive the mission that, in principle, would be formed by representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

"The success or failure of this initiative does not depend on us but on whether the Haitian military will allow the plane with the representatives to land so that a constructive dialogue may be held," the minister asserted.

Burelli added they would attempt to "give them a last-minute escape route to avoid a tragedy because we believe the situation is so serious that we cannot spare any effort."

The Venezuelan foreign minister warned that if the initiative fails and the invasion takes place "an undesirable precedent will be established" because it would take place without the existence of a war or without any precise and objective requests or causes.

Burelli recalled that previous U.S. invasions in the region have been repudiated by Venezuela, despite the fact that an intervention was requested in Grenada's case and that drug trafficking arguments supported the invasion of Panama.

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He added that there is still hope the Haitian military will desist from their attitude and that the tragedy of an invasion will not occur, in the wake of the authorization given Sunday by the UN Security Council.

Guido Grooscors, former Venezuelan representative to the OAS, said today in Caracas that this organization should condemn the possible invasion of Haiti.

The diplomat, sworn in today as Venezuela's ambassador to Ecuador, explained that the OAS cannot support an invasion because its Charter forbids it.

Grooscors said the OAS Charter establishes among its principles respect for nonintervention in the domestic affairs of member countries and self-determination of peoples.

He noted that the UN Security Council can authorize military intervention, because Chapters 6 and 7 of the Charter allow it when it considers there is a threat to peace.

He explained, however, that the condemnation would be of the military invasion, not the UN Security Council's decision, because the OAS is part of the UN community of nations.

Grooscors stated his support of Venezuela's position to continue negotiating a peaceful way out of the Haitian crisis, because "it would be deplorable and painful for our continent, if such a military intervention were to occur."

Countries Support Effort

PA0208232594 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, and eventually Uruguay have supported Venezuela's proposal for a last-minute diplomatic mission to avoid a military invasion of Haiti. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli confirmed the countries' support and explained that the high-level mission would deal directly with the Haitian military chiefs to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

In addition, the Venezuelan foreign minister indicated that Enrique Tejera Paris, Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations, is working to see that a high-level commission be organized to meet with the Haitian military rebel chiefs to avoid a greater disaster.

Foreign Policy Committee Head Opposes Invasion

PA0208234094 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 2 Aug 94 Section 1 p 12

[Text] German Monzon (National Convergence), president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Policy Committee, has said a military invasion of Haiti would not solve the serious problems that country is experiencing.

Even though Monzon has admitted the ground is ready, after the favorable UN Security Council vote (excluding China and Brazil) for the United States to use measures of force against Haiti, he still hopes a last diplomatic effort will be made.

The parliamentarian has reiterated "Venezuela does not approve of the invasion, because we are a country that loves peace and has opposed previous invasions carried out by the United States against Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Panama."

"An invasion alone does not solve the problems of a country, because it is up to the citizens of the country to solve them," Monzon has said.

The president of the Foreign Policy Committee has recalled the Venezuelan Congress approved an agreement condemning the economic blockade and invasion of Haiti, because "Venezuela, due to its democratic principles, opposes blockades and invasions."

Monzon has said "'Haiti' means wood in the forests, and the precarious situation confronted by that country is obvious in the type of fuel they must use—actual wood. In addition, 90 percent of the Haitian people are illiterate."

The parliamentarian has said "we must prepare a plan of cooperation, at all levels, and I would like to spearhead this program in Venezuela."

The National Convergence deputy has recalled "it would not be the first time the United States invades that Caribbean island nation, which it shares with the Dominican Republic, because the United States used force in the past, with the support of France, to occupy that country and dominated that country for 19 years."

"Nothing would be gained by the invasion, because democracy is also education," Monzon added.

The deputy supports the Venezuelan Government's position to appoint a high-ranking commission to make a last-ditch peace effort and reiterated Venezuela's proposal could be a resolution to the Haitian crisis.

"At this stage, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide should resign, and all the tyrants who are subjecting the Haitian people must step down. A provisional government should be established, and new elections, supervised by international organizations, held," Monzon has said.

Monzon has said it would be appropriate for a well-known Venezuelan to be appointed mediator to reach a political agreement that will avoid the use of force against that Caribbean nation, the birthplace of Petion.

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